



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Seasons

Some metaphors come so readily to us that they would crumble into clichés if they weren't so perennially compelling.

Images from nature are often like that, especially if we suspect with Shakespeare that there are "tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything." And if we believe there is a God who brought nature into being with something like a spoken word, and God wants to speak to us, then wouldn't we expect to find sermons scattered all through creation, if we have ears to hear them?

For those of us who live in a temperate climate, nature seldom speaks so clearly as in the coming and going of seasons. Things change in ways that are broadly predictable, yet our anticipating what comes next somehow never gets old.

We know the leaves will change before long, and we've seen it all before, but the colors will be beautiful and we look forward to seeing them again. Later on, bright color will give way to brown and gray, and white snow will fall with a hush, as if the voice behind nature was whispering again, "Be still, and know that I am God."

On the other side of winter, just when the cold and dark and quiet really do seem to be getting old, days will grow longer and crocuses will appear and birds will come back, and what seemed like death and stillness all around will turn out to be just slumber, as the world wakes again to new bursts of life and color and sound.

How could we not find hints of hope and promises of redemption in the cycles of the world around us? Vivaldi wrote *The Four Seasons* as a musical reflection on all this. And not coincidentally, our two greatest holidays, Christmas and Easter, recall the light of the world in the depths of darkness and new life arising on the other side of death.

Things change in nature, but they change as part of a larger pattern. We recognize patterns in the seasons, and they help us accept the parts we like least, even as we look forward to



the parts we prefer. Some of us manage to find beauty in every season, and marvel at how things can turn out to be good in such wildly different ways.

Our lives, of course, are like that too. Individually we pass through seasons, and there are pleasures to be found in every time if we know where to look. Communities grow and change through seasons as well, while each one brings promises and opportunities of its own.

Surely God has arranged the world to remind us of these things. To everything there is a season, after all, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Jim Gibbent

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for Congregational Care
 REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor*
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NURSERY SCHOOL

412-835-2906

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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Read the *Spire* online at:

www.westminster-church.org

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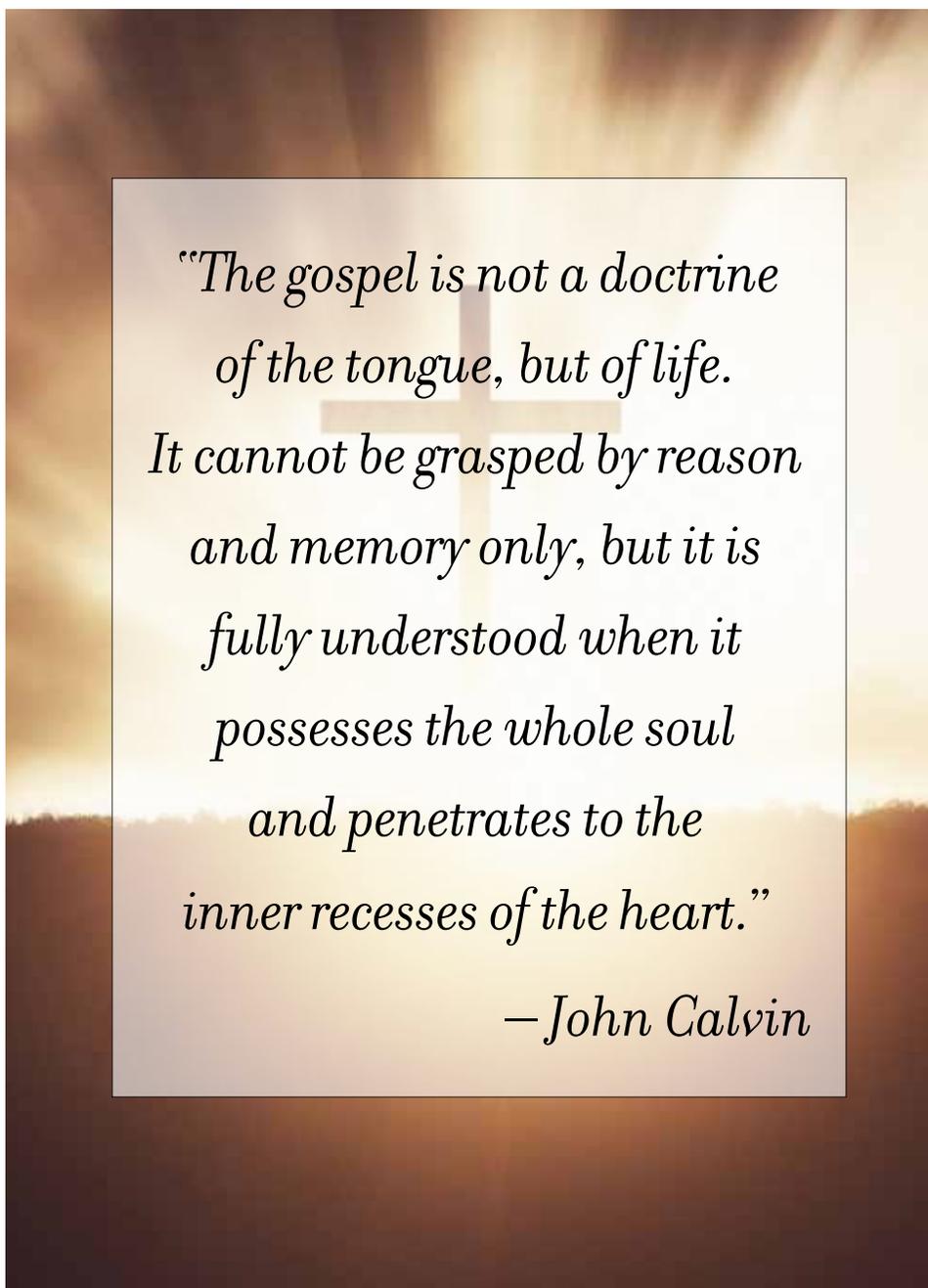
**Traditional
Worship**

 Sundays
 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary

**The Bridge
Contemporary Worship**

 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 gospel is not a doctrine
of the tongue, but of life.
It cannot be grasped by reason
and memory only, but it is
fully understood when it
possesses the whole soul
and penetrates to the
inner recesses of the heart.”*

— John Calvin

Upcoming Events

**07
OCT** World
Communion
Sunday

Peace &
Global Witness
Offering

Blessing of
the Pets

**13
OCT** Inquirers'
Gathering

**28
OCT** Reformation
Sunday
Congregational
Meeting

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

October Series

How Did Jesus Fulfill the “Law and Prophets”?

Jerome Creach and Steven Tuell, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

This series of seminars will explore what Jesus meant when he said he had not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them. The question essentially is how Jesus related to and understood the Old Testament. If he did not overturn the major tenets of the Hebrew scriptures, then how are we to understand the enduring meaning of restrictive laws and violent passages in the Old Testament? In these four weeks we will look closely at what “the law and the prophets” contained and how Jesus guides us to read them.

October 7 – What Are the “Law and Prophets”?

The session will describe the Hebrew canon, its structure, and assumptions of authority. It will also explore what “law” was and what it contained, and also what “prophets” contained. This initial session will set the stage for the next three sessions.

October 14 – Love of Neighbor and Love of the Stranger

October 21 – The Shema, the Greatest Commandment

October 28 – Isaiah 40:1-11 and the Coming of Jesus the Messiah

***Dr. Jerome Creach** is the Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he has served churches in Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Jerome is the author of five books and numerous articles on the Old Testament. Jerome is married Page Creach, who is also a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). They have two grown children.*

***Dr. Steven Tuell** is the James A. Kelso Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, he has served churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Virginia. Steve has written numerous articles and several books on the Hebrew Bible, most recently a new commentary on Nahum through Malachi, and is now working on a book on Creation in Scripture. He and his wife Wendy live in the North Hills and have three grown sons.*



Holding Hands

I was sitting on my usual perch in Fellowship Hall during the confirmation lunch with session a few years ago when I noticed we had a problem. This lunch happens twice a year, when students who have worked extremely hard on their statements of faith read them before the session, which later votes to receive the students into membership. The problem I noticed was that the young lady currently reading her statement of faith had written an absolutely excellent statement. She had written a statement that some seminary students would be embarrassed by. It was that good. And yet, she was trembling, the statement shaking in her hands, knees buckling, heart pounding. When the lunch had ended, I asked her what was wrong, and she told me that while she had a good statement to read, something about public speaking scared her to death.

I actually did a little bit of follow-up on this, and it turns out that on almost every list of biggest fears for Americans, public speaking is number one, and death is number two. As Jerry Seinfeld put it, most people would rather be in the casket than have to deliver the eulogy. But this really got me thinking about the nature of fear. See, I speak publicly for a living. In fact, I'm much more comfortable speaking in front of a group of people than I have ever been speaking one on one. What for one person is a debilitating fear is actually where I shine. Show me a snake in my own backyard and the story might switch a little bit.

I don't know what causes our fears, but I do know that this in fact makes a whole lot of fears a bit more legitimate. Some people will tell me that a fear is a silly thing to carry around, that they really shouldn't be so scared of the dark because the other people around them are fine with it. But I'm not sure that's how it works. We all have our hang-ups, and we all carry our fears with us.

And what's worse, some people have figured out how to play the game and stoke those fears. Some people have figured out that you can sell a whole lot of products if you stoke people's fears. Some people have figured out that you can control a whole bunch of civilizations by engaging in fear tactics. Some people have even

figured out that you can get a lot of votes by raising the level of fear in a nation. So, as if it weren't enough for us to carry our own fears, it would appear that others have a vested interest in keeping us fearful.

A few days ago the boys and I were getting in the car here in the church parking lot after daycare. I had buckled Joshua into his seat and was turning around to grab Julian's hand when he darted from me toward the parking lot. It was one of those moments of parental instinct that so many of us are familiar with, but I yelled "JULIAN!!! STOP!!!" at the top of my lungs. I wish I had a picture of my little one's face. He was terrified. It was necessary, but he was still terrified. So I picked him up and held him a bit, and though he didn't understand it as well as I'm sure he one day will, I reminded him that to keep him safe, sometimes I needed to step in and hold his hand. I was always there for him.

In one of the better poetic pieces of our Scriptures, it turns out that the phrase "Do not be afraid" shows up 365 times. It is as if God knew that there were enough fears present in our world that we were going to need a daily reminder of who's in charge. And that's really the point, isn't it? I did a quick scan of each of these mentions of "Do not be afraid," and they are usually followed by God or one of the heavenly beings doing something amazing. I don't get the impression that God is saying, "Hey, get over it, you silly scaredy-cat!" I get the feeling that God leans in for our most terrified moments and says, "Hey, I know this is scary. Why don't you take my hand while I do some work for you?" How great is that? God wants us to be less afraid not because there are fewer things to fear, but because God wants to be the one who walks through the fear with us.

So whether you have been asked to present the quarterly earnings report, or there is a nest of snakes in your back yard, or you just need to hold someone's hand through the parking lots of life, don't be afraid. God's got our back.

— Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

It seems to me that our culture is more focused on the details of our food than ever before. Farm raised, grass fed, free range, hormone free, organic. Vegan, protein enriched, probiotic...I *could* go on, but I imagine you get the point. Before I go any further, let me say this: these are fine things, even good things. Health and well-being are of immense importance and anything that we can do to care for ourselves – not to mention that many of these causes are also meant to care for the rest of creation as well – are wonderful! Yes, some folks have taken this to an annoying extreme, but that's not really what any of this is about. It's about what we put into our bodies. When it comes to nutrition, an increasing number of us spend more than a small amount of time and energy focused on this very subject. But what about our spiritual nourishment?

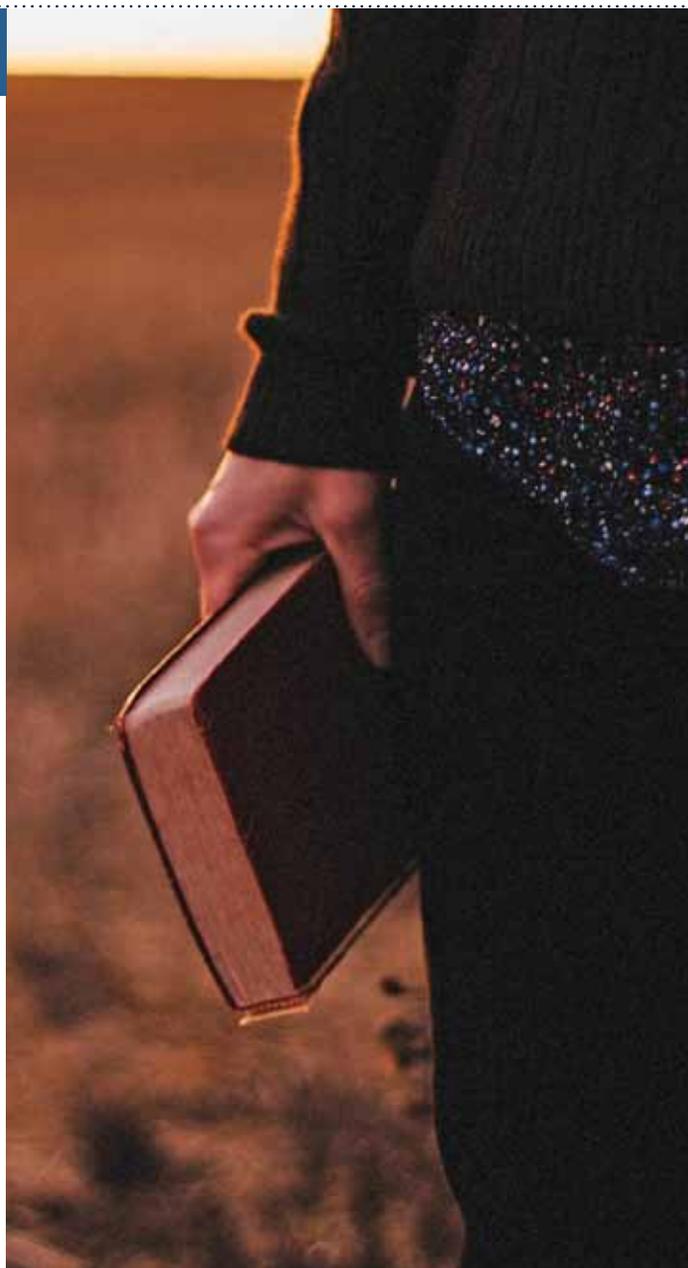
How naturally sourced is your spiritual growth? Let me explain. Deuteronomy 8:3 (and later, Jesus quotes the same text) says that “man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” According to these few words, there's something sustaining about the word of God, and we know that the word of God is found in scripture. When was the last time your spiritual nourishment was “farm to fork”? Are you building your faith, understanding, and connection with God from a direct connection to the sustaining words of God through scripture? Or are you living on some filtered down, over-processed, pre-packaged version of the word of God? If the majority of your connection to scripture comes from what someone else told you in church, or what someone else wrote down in a book, or what someone else said on TV, you may not be living on the healthiest diet.

A signal toward spiritual maturity can be found in these words as well. There is a time in life when our food needs to be filtered, processed, and cut down into manageable pieces – childhood. All through the animal kingdom mammals survive for a time on the sustenance of their mother. Baby birds eat foods that are partially digested by their parents. Babies nurse from their mother and toddlers learn to eat small bites one at a time. It works for a period, but then something needs to change. Hebrews 5 (and a few other places) point to this truth in our faith: “Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature.” As our faith grows, so should our intake of the healthy, rich, sustaining words of God. We can barely scrape by if we're living on pre-digested, pre-processed, bite-sized pieces of our childhood years. You and I are made for a satisfying diet of the word of God – straight from the source.

Now, I recognize the irony in this article. It's quite possible (likely even) that some of you may set this down and go on with your day, perhaps not even think about it again. But let's throw a wrench in that plan. If something in these words sparked a hunger within you, good! Go straight to the source, download the Bible app on your phone, grab a Bible off the bookshelf, and get your hands dirty. God's word is full of sustaining, life-giving truth. Eat to your fill.

I'd love to hear what you're reading about. Feel free to get in touch!

– Ed Sutter



Are you building your faith, understanding, and connection with God from a direct connection to the sustaining words of God through scripture?

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

On a recent walk on the beach, enjoying the beautiful, warm day, sun and breeze, sand and water, I noticed an unusual sight. Right there, in the middle of the beach, was a bunch of pigeons. Google tells me that the correct name for a group of pigeons is “flight” or “kit.” Since they were just standing around, “flight” doesn’t seem to fit. Maybe “kit” will do?

Anyway, this kit of pigeons was really huddling together, facing inward, backs to the scene around them. I think it stood out to me because – well, what were pigeons even doing on the beach in the first place? And, besides, their behavior was so different from the other sea birds: gulls (a “colony” or “squabble”), terns (a “cotillion”), and egrets (a “scattering”). All the other birds were busily looking and running around. In fact, the name for each of those groups of birds was certainly fitting. They scattered along the water’s edge, darting and hopping back and forth, squawking at one another (or whatever the correct term for bird talk is), while they fished, dug for tiny shellfish, or just watched whatever was going on around them.

Not those pigeons, however. They reminded me of the dwarves C.S. Lewis describes in the last of his Narnia books, *The Last Battle*. Along with the main characters, these dwarves have found themselves in “Aslan’s country,” in paradise. But despite the wonder and beauty of their surroundings, the dwarves sit in a little circle, facing one another, taking no notice of anyone or anything else, refusing to believe in the glories around them. Lewis says, “They have chosen cunning instead of belief. Their prison is only

in their own minds, yet they are in that prison; and are so afraid of being taken in that they cannot be taken out.”

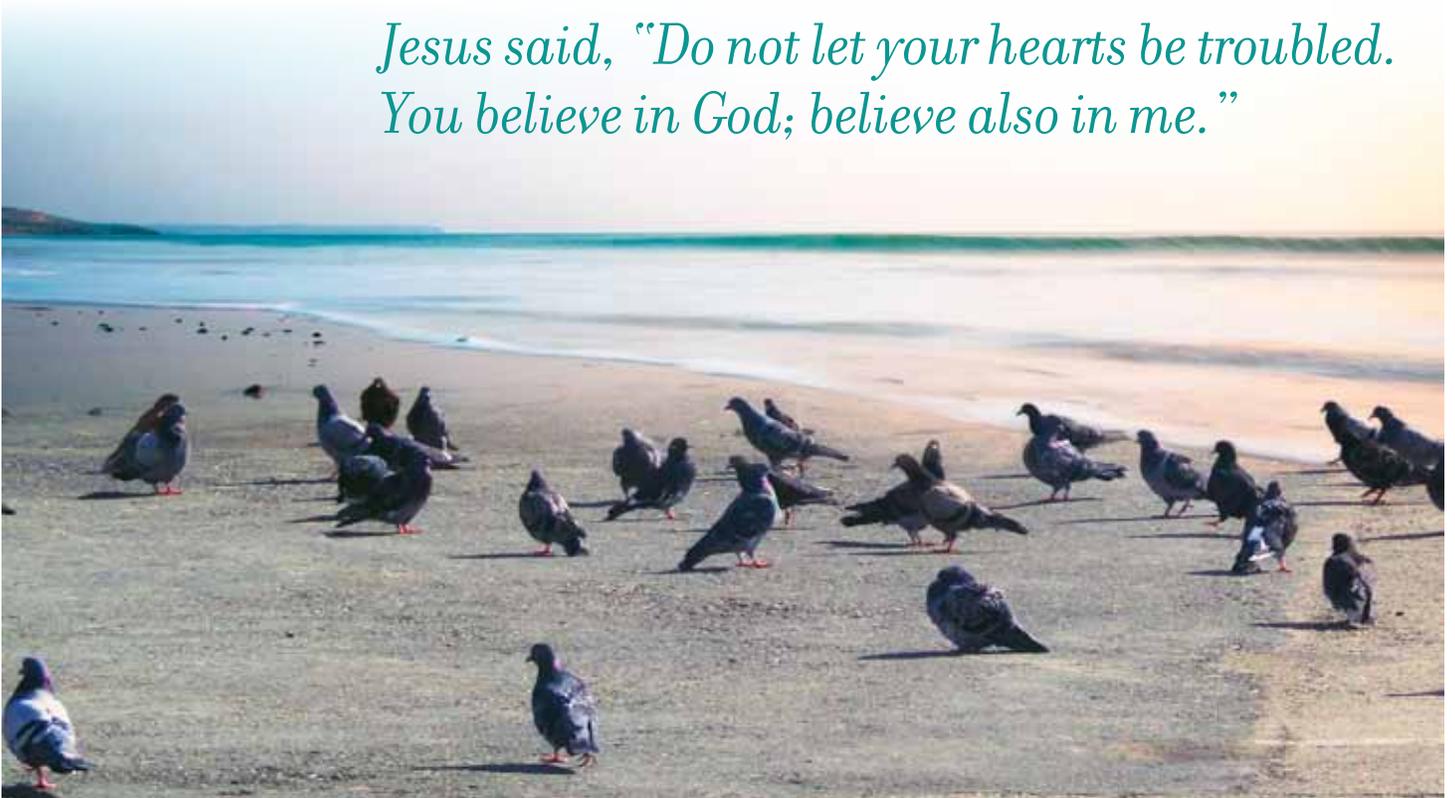
Sometimes I think we can be a lot like those pigeons or those dwarves. At least I know I can be. I can find myself so focused on me – my ideas, my worries, my goals, my problems, my solutions, my people, my opinions, my way – that I can’t see or hear anyone, or anything, else. Just like the pigeons on the beach, I miss the beauty of the world God has provided for us, not seeing what’s around me. But perhaps even worse, I miss seeing the people around me. I miss seeing my neighbors. I miss seeing God. And how can I even begin to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” or “love your neighbor as yourself” if I can’t even see my neighbor or my God?

So, how can I avoid being a pigeon on the beach?

Lewis says that the dwarves “have chosen cunning instead of belief,” thereby building a prison from which they cannot be rescued. The point being that instead of cunning I can, we can, choose belief. Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.” By choosing to keep my eyes and mind open, my heart focused on Jesus, just maybe I can make enough room to receive the gift of love for God and love for my neighbor that God demands – and promises.

– Robin Pyles

*Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God; believe also in me.”*



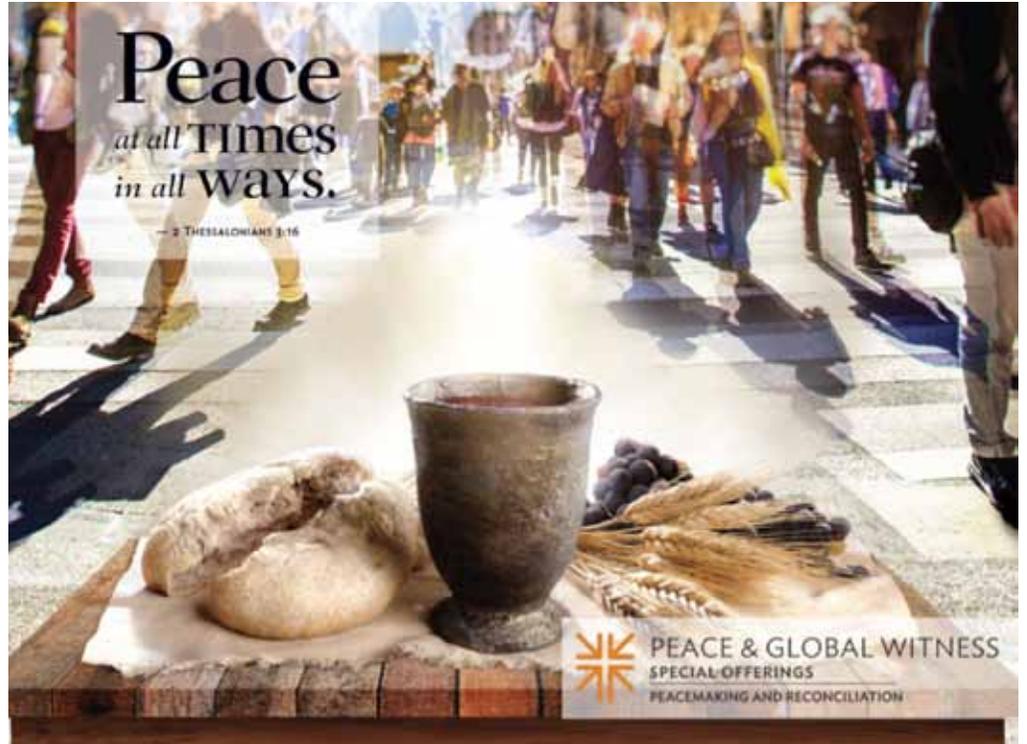
“Putting the World to Rights”: Speaking Truth to Power

October has, for many years at Westminster, marked the wonderful confluence of *World Communion Sunday* and what is now called the *Peace and Global Witness Offering*. Part of the message is that sharing in communion brings us together and thus pulls us away from conflict. But there is another truth, one spoken at the televised memorial service for Senator John McCain. The pastor, in speaking about communion, said that bread, in order to be shared, must be broken, that we are to be broken for one another. He went on to tell of the ways the senator had literally been broken for others.

Part of our life as Christians is to allow ourselves to be used in the service of others, especially – according to Jesus – those who are on the margins economically and socially. These days there is plenty of room for work of this kind, both globally and locally. People are poor, hungry, and disadvantaged in many ways. Many things are not right.

N.T. Wright, one of Jim Gilchrist’s favorite authors, addresses this challenge in *God in Public: How the Bible Speaks Truth to Power Today*. He says that with the resurrection of Jesus, something changed in the world. It was the beginning of the new creation, “a new world of justice and peace was opening up, and God was *putting the world to rights already*.” And then Wright makes his second point: it is we who are called, in the present, to do this work of setting things right. “The poor in spirit will be making the kingdom of heaven happen...the meek will be taking over the earth so gently that the powerful won’t notice until it’s too late... those who are hungry and thirsty for God’s justice will be analyzing government policy and legal rulings and speaking up on behalf of those at the bottom of the pile...this is what it looks like when the Christian faith is doing its job within the public life of today’s and tomorrow’s world.” And Wright reminds us that this work is not only a result of our own effort but is at one with the “putting the world to rights” that Jesus inaugurated.

We are those who are hungry and thirsty for justice, and we want to work to set things right. This past summer the Westminster Peace and Justice Group presented a seminar series on poverty, *Bringing Good News to the Poor*. We looked at who is poor in the U.S., listened to Tammy Thompson of Circles share her firsthand experience of growing up in poverty, and learned from Michael Stanton of Open Hand Ministries about his work helping poor people with housing. For our final session the Rev. Liddy Barlow from Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania



presented “Shaping Public Policy to Serve the Poor.” She shared her experiences in speaking truth to power by writing, calling, and visiting legislators on behalf of those “at the bottom of the pile.” She gave us suggestions about how to effectively follow her example.

So we are inspired to speak up. It will take some work to learn the issues and become better communicators. We, however, do have help. For many years Westminster has supported *Bread for the World*, a bipartisan Christian organization that analyses hunger related issues and gives guidance for sharing concerns with those in power. Currently the focus is on the Farm Bill, which provides funding for the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*, or *SNAP*. Watch for Peace and Justice at Westminster to be engaged in this along with *Bread for the World*, and consider joining the effort.

This October we will receive the *Peace and Global Witness Offering*, which supports our efforts for peace and justice at Westminster as well as the presbytery and national offices. We give 50% of our offering to PC(USA), 25% to Pittsburgh Presbytery, and we retain 25% for use at Westminster. Funds from the 2017 offering were used to present this summer’s series on poverty. We look forward to exploring new ways of “putting the world to rights,” and we are grateful for your continued support for this work.

– Bobbie Hartman

Sight and Sound Theater

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

On August 8, 2018, our church sponsored a one-day bus trip which left the church parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and traveled across the state to Lancaster to see *Jesus*, the Sight and Sound musical production of the play called *Jesus*. We had a spectacular treat in store for us. A group of 34 adults, Westminster members and nonmembers, rode in a luxurious Lenzner Motor Coach to attend a 2:00 p.m. performance of the current show, *Jesus*.

Prior to arriving at the theater, we had a tasty lunch at the Plain and Fancy, an Amish family style restaurant. There was even a little time for shopping in the adjacent gift shop. After lunch we had a short drive to the Sight and Sound Theater, which is an incredible building housing a 300 hundred foot panoramic stage that surrounds the 2,000 seat auditorium on three sides.

This original musical production was astounding and extraordinarily professional. It included state of the art technology, a powerful sound system, large magnificent sets, and gorgeous period costumes, which all added to the breathtaking performance. In addition, the production included live animals such as camels, pigs, goats, horses, and flying white doves. Folks seated next to the aisles were asked to keep their “toes” under their seats so as not to be stepped on by the animals.

The opening scene began with a rousing musical number by the soon to be Apostles and closed with a depiction of Pentecost. In between those two events all other major occurrences in the life of Jesus of Nazareth were dramatically and tastefully presented through dialogue and music.

The show has been playing to sold-out audiences in spite of multiple daily performances. In addition, the production schedule has been extended greatly from its original planned run.

Our Westminster group had nothing but strong, positive comments about the show:

“One of the most remarkable theater experiences I’ve ever had.”

“I want to bring my whole family to see this.”

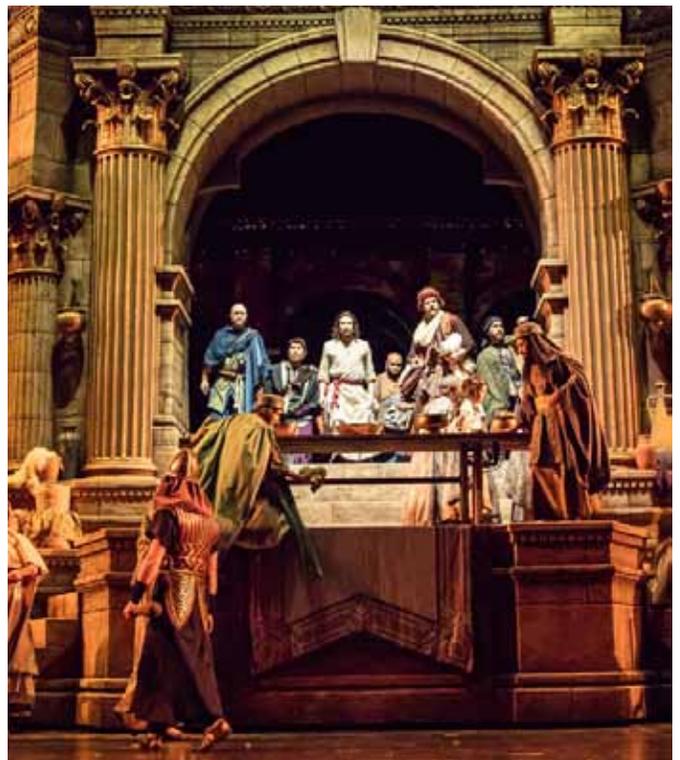
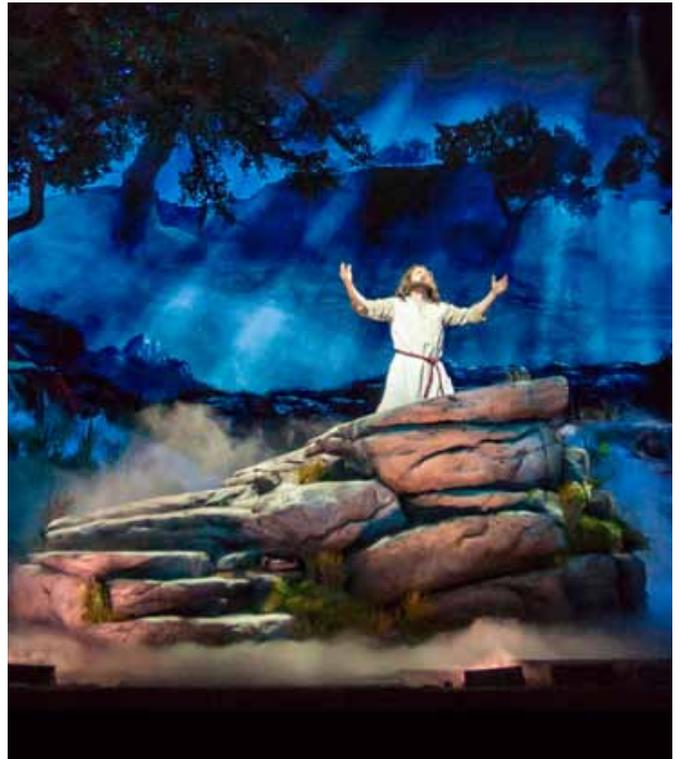
“You have to see this to believe how spectacular it is!”

“I would definitely do this again.”

Because of the wonderful leadership of Westminster member Bob Dilly, the trip was a success in every way. Thanks, Bob, for all of your efforts.

In addition to the “events” of the trip, the chance to mingle with other church and community members was definitely an added bonus to this wonderful excursion. The Adult Spiritual Life Commission would like to consider sponsoring similar experiences in the future. Please submit your ideas to Chairperson Pat Smith. When the next outing is scheduled, please consider participating and bringing a friend along to share in our Westminster fellowship.

– Sandy Conaway



Rummage-Recycling Sales Benefit Mission

It is always a happy day when, in June, several of us gather in the church library to distribute the proceeds from the previous November and April Rummage-Recycling Sales. We welcome having Will Hignett, WPC consultant for outreach ministry, join us since he is most up-to-date on the needs of our region. Although the dollar amount of what we take in at our sales has plateaued in recent years, as would be expected, we are always pleasantly surprised at the funds we can give to help others. We are blessed! Thanks to the hundreds of individuals who participated in one way or another in these last two sales, we were able to distribute a total of \$20,330 to 25 mission projects, mostly local, but also international groups and organizations.

We want to again thank the 160-plus church members who volunteered their time to help during each of the two days, as well as those who volunteered food for the volunteers' delicious lunches. We also thank the many folks from Westminster and surrounding communities who donated items they no longer wanted or needed. And thank you, also, to the hundreds of people, some traveling considerable distances, who came to shop for treasures at our Saturday sales.

The distribution was as follows:

Angels' Place	\$500
Barefoot School	\$500
Center for Victims	\$250
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	\$1,000
Jubilee Soup Kitchen	\$500
Meals on Wheels, Bethel-St. Clair	\$1,000
Meals on Wheels, Peters	\$1,500
The Open Door – Garfield Community Farm	\$1,000
Open Hand Ministries	\$1,000
Pennsylvania Women Work	\$500
Pittsburgh Diaper Bank	\$500
PRISM	\$250
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh	\$1,000
South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)	\$1,000
Sponsorship of two Haitian children	\$480
Rise Against Hunger (Stop Hunger Now)	\$3,500
The Corner	\$1,000
Valley View Presbyterian Church	\$1,000
City Mission (Washington, PA)	\$1,000
City Mission Avis Arbor Women's Shelter	\$500
Washington Presbyterian SeniorCare	\$500
Westminster Child Development Center	\$500
Westminster Nursery School (scholarships)	\$500
WEST Fund (scholarships)	\$500
Presbyterian World Mission Fund	\$1,600



Our ability to provide such substantial help to so many people and organizations is a tribute to the willingness and dedication of members of the WPC congregation. If you have volunteered, you know how much satisfaction and enjoyment you get from your efforts. If you have not shared in this amazing opportunity, please consider joining us in the fun and fellowship this coming November 9 and 10.

Volunteering to help in the Rummage-Recycling Sales is the single regularly scheduled opportunity at Westminster where people of all ages, from children to folks in their nineties, join together to support such a worthy cause.

Fall 2018

Rummage-Recycling Sale

Saturday, November 10
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The next sale is coming soon. Mark your calendar for November 9 and 10.

Friday, November 9, is collection day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sale day is Saturday, November 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You may volunteer for several hours on either or both days. To sign up, please call Marilyn Hayes (412-831-5704) or Jan Baumann, the church's volunteer coordinator (412-835-6630).

Mission Training Opportunity October 17

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Crestfield Camp and Conference Center in Slippery Rock will host a disaster preparedness training sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity. Natural disasters are a part of our current landscape. Each year the Pittsburgh area experiences local flooding. How can we respond to support and heal communities while also caring for ourselves?

You are invited to attend this informational training session, with resources from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). The training is sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity along with the Pittsburgh Presbytery and four other presbyteries across the region. **You must register by Monday, October 8. The cost is \$10/person.**

EVENT SCHEDULE

(Choice of two training opportunities in the afternoon)

- 9 a.m. Registration**
- 9:30 a.m. Disaster Preparedness and Engagement:** "Blessed to be a blessing." This workshop will have a dual focus. Participants will gain valuable insight on how to prepare themselves and their congregations for a disaster. In addition, participants will discover ways to bring their God-given talent, time, and resources to a response-and-recovery effort in their community.
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch included**
- 1:30 p.m. Human-Caused Disasters:** "Nothing can separate us from the love of God." Violence changes everything, and it requires different skills from responding to natural disasters. Participants will learn definitions and guidelines for human-caused disasters, trauma, clergy care, congregational care, worship and liturgy, media relations, and long-term emotional and spiritual care. In addition, participants will be able to bring their learnings directly to their ministry context. (Or choose Immigration Issues.)
- 1:30 p.m. Immigration Issues:** "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Aid to refugees and displaced persons is PDA's birth story. Many Presbyterians, however, are not familiar with PDA's role in engaging Presbyterians in refugee ministries or our history in helping to establish refugee-serving organizations all over the United States. Participants will learn of the ways in which this ministry is carried out through ecumenical partnerships, related church agencies, middle governing bodies, and congregations
- 3:30 p.m. Closing remarks**

For more information, go to <http://www.syntrinity.org/pda/> to register. This opportunity is part of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance disaster response training offered by five presbyteries across the region to Presbyterians across Pennsylvania.

If you choose to go, contact Will Hignett at whignett@westminster-church.org to car pool.



2018 Giving Gala Tickets Now Available

Saturday, November 3

This year, the Deacons of Westminster's annual Giving Gala supports Open Door, an organization that has many high-quality programs to serve disadvantaged youth in Crafton Heights. Open Door provides After School Assistance, Friday Night Recreation, Cross Trainers' Summer Camp, and a special Runners' Club. The Gala starts with dinner at St. Clair Country Club, followed by a live auction and basket raffle.

Tickets for both the event and basket raffle will be sold on Sunday mornings throughout October in the north entry and the Bridge. If you can't attend, please consider other giving opportunities such as corporate sponsorships and individual donations.

This special evening of fun and fellowship addresses the needs of our neighbors – please join us. For questions, call Andrée Jeffrey, 412-831-7839, or Hedy Pitcairn, 412-831-7126, chairpersons; Randy Langlois, 724-941-4840, corporate sponsorships; or Lois Franks, 412-466-3533, baskets.



Music

Westminster's Music & Arts Series has continued to provide diverse performances through our primary mission of bringing high-quality concerts to the South Hills as we feature local, national, and international talent. Our continuing goal is to enrich one's appreciation of the arts through the timeless message and power of music.

WESTMINSTER CHANCEL CHOIR

John Rutter, Requiem
Sunday, November 4, 2018
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

CHATHAM BAROQUE*

The Art of the Trio
Friday, November 9, 2018
7:30 p.m., Galbreath Chapel

RESONANCE WORKS*

A Joyous Sound
Friday, December 7, 2018
8:00 p.m., Sanctuary



WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 9, 2018
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

PITTSBURGH CAMERATA*

Music of the Spheres
Saturday, February 2, 2019
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary



AT WESTMINSTER

CHATHAM BAROQUE*

Cupid's Harp

Friday, February 15, 2019

7:30 p.m., Galbreath Chapel



TSAR LAZAR SERBIAN MEN'S CHOIR and CARICA MILICA SERBIAN WOMEN'S CHOIR

Conductors Snezana Lazich and George Milosh

Saturday, February 23, 2019

7:30 p.m., Sanctuary



ORGANIST DANIEL FICARRI

Sunday, March 10, 2019

3:00 p.m., Galbreath Chapel



RESONANCE WORKS*

Bach's St. John Passion

Sunday, March 24, 2019

3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

CHATHAM BAROQUE*

From Battles to Ballets

Friday, April 5, 2019

7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

CHAMBER CHOIR FESTIVAL

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

MENDELSSOHN CHOIR CONCERT*

Victoria's Secret: A Life in Music

Sunday, May 19, 2019

3:00 p.m., Sanctuary



credit: Alisa Garin Photography

* Denotes ticketed events. Visit performing groups' websites for details and to purchase tickets.



MISSION: To reach out to people for Jesus Christ and develop their faith through recreational activities and Christian fellowship.

Westminster Recreation & Outreach Center

Delay the Disease™

Fitness class for those managing Parkinson's disease

OhioHealth Delay the Disease™ is a fitness program designed to empower people with Parkinson's disease (PD) by targeting their symptoms and optimizing their physical function.

This Parkinson's specific fitness program is designed to proactively minimize tremors and improve flexibility, stability, balance, and strength. Classes include exercises to improve activities of daily living, like getting out of bed, getting off the floor, getting out of the car, getting out of the chair, dressing, freezing, posture, rigidity, moving about in crowds, and lots more.

Instructor Jeannine Hartman is certified through ACE as a personal trainer and OhioHealth as a Parkinson's Fitness Program Instructor. Jeannine has been a personal trainer for 18 years and has clients with a wide variety of abilities, many with movement disorders.

November 1 – December 20 (no class 11/22)
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesdays only: \$35
Thursdays only: \$35
Tuesdays and Thursdays: \$70



photos credit: Trista Thurston for *The Almanac*

Foundations

Bible Study with Pastor Louise Rogers

Join Pastor Louise Rogers for a time of exploring the basics of Christian beliefs. Together we will take a look at:

- How we can develop a stronger foundation of faith that affects our daily life?
- What teachings of the Bible are most important for life in the 21st century?
- Deepen insights about faith through exploring key topics such as the Bible, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Salvation.

If you enjoyed Louise's past study of *30 Days to Understanding the Bible* by Max Anders, you'll enjoy this topical study which will lead you to an understanding of more faith basics. Attendance in the past study is not a requirement. Everyone is welcome.

Mondays, October 8 – 29

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Room 231

Cost: Free; registration required.



New WROC Fitness Class!

PickleBall

A racket game for all ages and abilities

Pickleball is designed as a fun, social, and easy to learn activity! Combining the elements of tennis, badminton, and ping pong, pickleball uses paddles, a small wiffle ball, a net, and a court.

Are you interesting in playing or learning to play pickleball?

Westminster is looking for men and women interested in playing right here at the WROC. We'll have evenings for those new to the game (along with instructors to teach you the rules), and evenings for the more experienced players. All skill levels are welcome and equipment is provided!

Players must be at least 18 years old.

Thursdays, October 4 – December 20 (no games 11/22)

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10



Enroll now for WROC fall classes at wroc.westminster-church.org



Harvest of Fall

A new magazine recently arrived at our house highlighting seasonal events for the fall. It featured pumpkin picking, an apple festival, hayrides, and more. All these stem from the harvest. Tiny seeds were planted back in the springtime with hope, and nurtured to become plants which now produce fruit. A good harvest is reason to celebrate.

God guides our faith to grow as well. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "The one who plants and the one who waters work as one, but each will receive his reward according to his work. We are coworkers belonging to God. You are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:8-9). Each one of us is gifted with the Spirit of God at work in us helping us to grow more like Christ. We are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Blessed are the givers. In a world where we can be anything, let's be kind to others. We have many opportunities to serve. Bring the extra dish at Thanksgiving. Go the extra mile for the fundraiser or the food bank. Send the card and ask a neighbor how he is doing. Giving is an important and powerful spiritual practice.

Blessed are the receivers too! We can step into that role with gratitude and trust, allowing others the pleasure of giving along

with the credit and thanks that comes with it. This begins when we start each day as a gift, "which the Lord has made."

To go through the day recognizing small gifts when they come – an opened door, a measure of encouragement, an extra hug, an offer to take out the garbage – is the beginning of a practice of gratitude that can reframe the ordinary life as a series of gifts that cascade quietly into our life.

What if we were to practice saying "Yes! Thank you!" instead of "Oh no, I'll do it," "Thanks anyway," or "Oh, it's no bother." To be more intentional about God working in our lives is to deepen our awareness of the interdependence that strengthens relationships where the free exchange of gifts abound.

We are blessed beyond measure in many ways. May God open our hearts and our lives to recognize and share the harvest of love before us.

Joyfully,

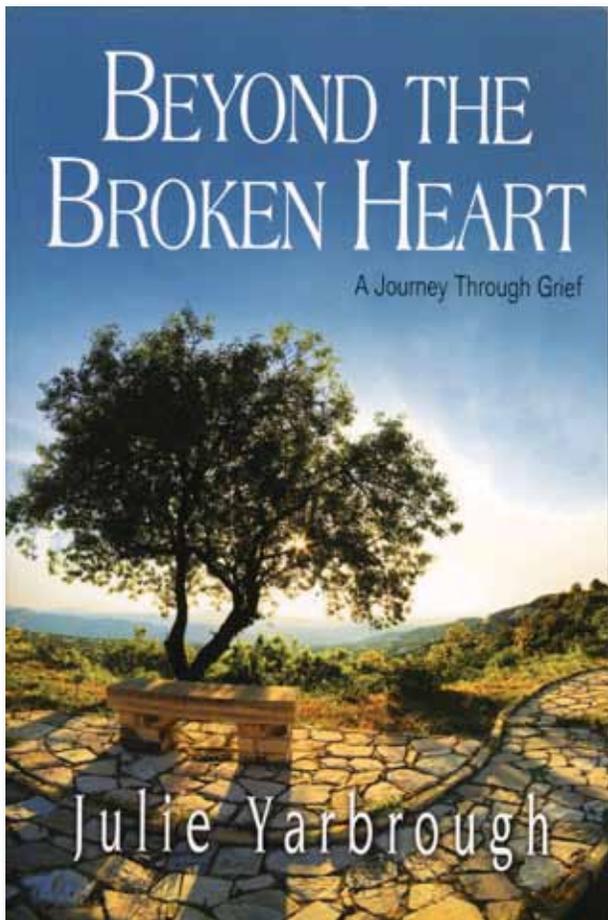
Louise Rogers

Grief Care Group

Wednesdays, October 10, 17, 24, November 7, 14
6:45 – 8:00 p.m.
Memorial Parlor

If you have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, it may be hard to feel optimistic about the future right now. You may have found that people don't always understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never before faced. Grief Care is a faith-based grief support group that can help you face the challenges of loss and move toward rebuilding your life. Please contact Louise Rogers if you have any questions.

The group uses the book *Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey Through Grief* by Julie Yarbrough. **To register and for more information**, complete the online registration form on the church website or call Peg Kinsey at 412-835-6630. To help defray the costs of materials, a donation of \$10.00 is suggested.



*Grief Care is a
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Inquirers' Gathering

*Believing and Belonging
Go Together!*

If you're a visitor and have been considering membership, we invite you to attend an Inquirers' Gathering, a time of sharing and teaching as we explore what it means to be a faithful follower of Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. The next gathering will be Saturday, October 13, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Parlor. If you would like to attend, or have any questions, please call Peg Kinsey in the church office at 412-835-6630.

Hearing Assistance Devices Available for Purchase

If you are interested in purchasing your own hearing assistance device for use in the sanctuary, please contact Dave Reiter in the church office at 412-835-6630x201 during business hours. Dave will order one for you at cost, which is \$113 per device.



Blessing of the Pets

**Sunday, October 7
2:00 p.m.
North Parking Lot***

All people-friendly pets and their owners are invited to a designated celebration that both acknowledges and pays tribute to the loyal animal companions that love us unconditionally. Join pastors Louise Rogers and Jason Freyer as they give thanks for these special family members, and as they bless the people who love and care for them deeply.

Please be sure your pets are on non-retractable leashes or in carriers, and have proof of up-to-date vaccinations.

*If weather is inclement, please meet in the WROC (gymnasium).



Financial Report *As of August 31, 2018*

General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2018	\$1,314,245.49
Annual Budget	\$1,995,579.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$681,333.51

Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$1,510,373.41
Expenses	\$1,510,159.04
Net Position	\$214.37

We thank you for your wonderful support through the first seven months, and we are pleased to report that we have not had to rely on any outside lending sources to fulfill our internal and external commitments. However, as you can see above, we still have approximately 34% of our 2018 budget yet to be fulfilled.

If you are current or ahead on your 2018 pledge, thank you for your continuing support. If you are behind on your 2018 pledge, please consider catching up and fulfilling your pledge, so that we can continue to meet our commitments. Thank you.

Session Update

On September 17, Session met with the Board of Deacons for the first portion of their regular meeting, when the deacons reported on some of their current activities and Session thanked them for their important ministry.

The pastors reported on other ministries, and Jim Gilchrist described plans for a transition in the leadership of children's and family ministries, as Robin Pyles has announced her family's plan to move to Florida next summer. Jim also shared that he will retire from full-time ministry effective March 1, and he described the process by which Session will hire an interim pastor and the congregation will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for a new senior pastor.

After the deacons and elders adjourned to their separate meetings, Session received program updates and endorsed a proposal for a few youth and adults from Westminster to participate in a Pittsburgh Presbytery trip to Malawi in July 2019.

Deaths

Olive Konick
August 18

Art Humphreys
August 27

Helen B. Jacob
September 11





WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

join us!

Peace
at all Times
in all ways.
— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

