



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

The World's Deep Need

Frederick Buechner, a Presbyterian pastor and novelist, says that our vocation lies where our deep joy meets the world's deep need.

By "joy," of course, he does not mean the sort of momentary happiness that comes from pleasant circumstances. Encountering another person's need can be very difficult if we feel compassion for our fellow human beings, and the more empathetic we are, the more deeply we bear one another's burdens.

And yet, responding to someone else's need in genuinely supportive ways is an act of love, and love is always related to joy, deep down. That's because we were made to love, and we find our deepest joy when we are doing the things we were made to do.

I've been reminded of the world's deep need from several directions this Lenten season. A couple of people I know got bad news from the doctor. A few lost loved ones. Some of us are becoming more deeply engaged in other people's struggles with poverty, or racism, or injustice, or all three. All those needs are hard to encounter because they arise out of severe challenges faced by people we've come to care about.

Then there are the people we don't know personally, but some of whom are



Photo from www.independent.co.uk

known by our friends, and all of whom are known by God. Someone who grew up at Westminster sent me an essay from the *New York Times*, written by a friend of his who was reflecting on how she learned that she has stage 4 cancer and probably has not long to live. Thirty-five years old with a husband and a young child, Kate Bowler is an assistant professor at Duke Divinity School and the author of a book on my shelf called *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*. The irony of having spent several years interviewing people who think Christianity should bring all sorts of material rewards in this life is not lost on this young author. She says, "I find myself returning to the same thoughts again and again: *Life is so beautiful. Life is so hard.*"

On my desk sits the new issue of *Mission Mosaic*, the magazine of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. It's about ministry with refugees and

includes a detailed description, among other things, of the fourteen-step review process people go through before they can be admitted to the United States. Not coincidentally, the magazine reminds us of what Jesus says will be on the final exam at the end of this life: namely, what we did when we saw him hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, in the person of any member of his human family.

The world's needs are deep and wide, and the temptation to turn away from them is strong. But Lent reminds us of the love of Christ, who says he wants our joy to be complete, and the way to find our deepest joy is to learn how to love deeply.

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Read the *Spire* online at:

www.westminster-church.org

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 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 Cross, Suffering, and Discipleship: Quotes from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The cross is not random suffering, but necessary suffering. The cross is not suffering that stems from natural existence; it is the suffering that comes from being Christian.

Jesus' call to bear the cross places all who follow him in the community of the forgiveness of sins. Forgiving sins is the Christ-suffering required of his disciples. It is required of all Christians.

God honors some with great suffering and grants them the grace of martyrdom, while others are not tempted beyond their strength. But in every case it is one cross. It is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering that everyone has to experience is the call which summons us away from our attachments to this world. It is the death of the old self in the encounter with Jesus Christ. Those who enter into discipleship enter into Jesus' death.

The cross is suffering with Christ.

The Cost of Discipleship, 1949

Upcoming Events

- 13**
MAR Organist Isabelle Demers: recital in the sanctuary
- 19**
MAR Inquirers' Gathering
- 20**
MAR Palm Sunday
Pocket Change Project Collection
- 24**
MAR Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
- 25**
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- 27**
MAR Easter

Save the Date
Men's Breakfast with Tunch Ilken
 Saturday, April 30
 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
 Fellowship Hall
Sponsored by the WROC and Men's Ministry

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Galbreath Chapel

March Lenten Series

Our second Lenten series focuses on the subject of suffering. We welcome two professors from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to help us better understand aspects of suffering in the larger Christian tradition and in our community of faith. Please join us!

March 6 & 13

Protestant Conceptions of Suffering

Heather H. Vacek

An Introduction to Suffering in the Christian Tradition

During this first week together we'll take a look at scriptural, practical, and intellectual traditions that have shaped Christian understandings of suffering throughout time. What causes suffering? What do we learn from scripture? What is theodicy, and how does it shape the conversation?

Three Perspectives on Suffering

During this second week we'll dig more deeply into the vantage points of three individual Christians and explore how context and theological convictions shape understandings of suffering as either instructive (Martin Luther), as a failure of faith (Joel Osteen), or as something to be resisted (M. Shawn Copeland).

*The Rev. Dr. Heather Vacek teaches church history at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and as of March 1 will serve there as Vice President of Academics and Dean of Faculty. Her recently published book, *Madness: American Protestant Responses to Mental Illness* (Baylor University Press, 2015), explores how Christians thought theologically about illness and navigated ever-shifting lines of cultural authority as they cared for those who suffered with mental maladies.*

March 20

Conflict: Suffering in the Faith Community

Leanna K. Fuller

When we hear the word *suffering*, we often think of it in individualistic terms (e.g., individual experiences of grief, physical pain, trauma, etc.) Yet, destructive conflict in congregations is often a communal form of suffering that calls out for the same kind of attention that we give to individual ailments. This session will explore the roots and effects of conflict in congregations, as well as the skills needed to handle conflict more effectively so that it can contribute to growth and transformation, rather than suffering, within the faith community.

Dr. Leanna Fuller serves as assistant professor of pastoral care at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ and has pastoral experience in both healthcare and congregational settings. Her current research interests include conflict in faith communities, the use of social psychology in pastoral theology, and clergy self-care. She lives in O'Hara Township with her spouse, Scott, their five-year-old son, Simon, and two dogs.



BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

In January I was given the opportunity to speak to a group of Pittsburgh's youth workers. A friend asked if I was nervous. I replied that while I wasn't nervous to present, I was concerned that I wouldn't reach my own standard. I was afraid I'd fail in my own eyes. I set a very high bar for myself: sometimes I give myself grace; other times I'm ashamed of the work I've left undone or underdone.

We all have varying degrees of expectations for ourselves as well as for those around us. I expect my two-year-old daughter to overreact to frustrations. I expect my wife to respond maturely. I expect the local weatherman to be close. I expect my doctor to be exact.

I wonder if we've erred in our expectations of God – if we prepare for failure, for frustration in God. Think of Moses who, under God's guidance, leads the Israelites out of slavery and to the Promised Land, then dies before setting foot in the land himself. Moses who, after being granted intimate counsel time and time again, asks of God, "Show me your glory," and gets to see God's back. It seems that God often works in glimpses. Gentle whispers on a mountainside (1 Kings 19), long walks with strangers (Luke 24), a Spirit that moves like the wind (John 3), a baby Messiah (Matthew 2).

We pray (with some regularity), "God, show yourself to us," but perhaps we should instead pray, "God, open my eyes to see where you *have* shown yourself." In certain segments of life a glimpse is more than enough to spark deep joy and interest: a sunny afternoon in wintertime, a celebrity walking through town, a glance from a beautiful woman. Why is it that we gush over these simple glimpses, but express disappointment that God hasn't "revealed himself"?

Is it possible that we've overlooked the glimpses that God has given us?

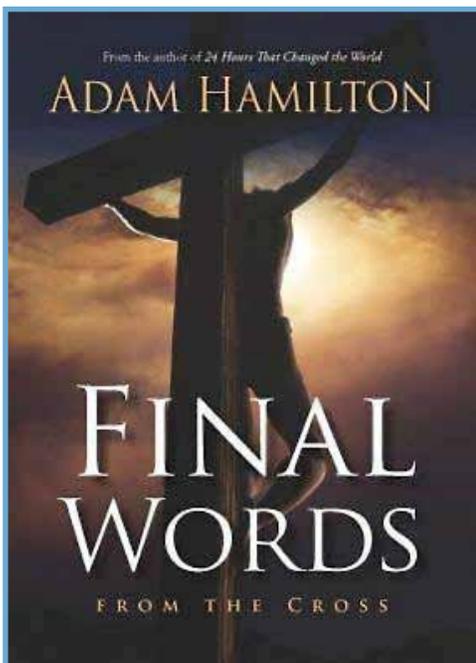


I suppose that we shouldn't be surprised. Of course we desire more, a deeper feeling of connectedness with God. We are, after all, created *by* him for life *with* him. Intricately woven into every fiber of our being are the fingerprints of the Creator. Created in his image, we feel unfulfilled, dissatisfied, restless until we rest in him. We long to return to the garden. In the meantime, our vision must be focused through the lens of divine glimpses.

I believe that God reveals himself daily. Some days my vision is better than others; some days I'm not even sure that my eyes are opened; every day I desire more of him. I'm sure that I'm not alone. Open your eyes. God is revealing himself to you, he desires you, and you are made for him.

How's your spiritual vision? I'd love to talk and pray with you.

– Ed Sutter



Thursday AM Bible Study

March 3, 17, 24, 31

April 7, 14

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Room 238

You are invited to Lent-Easter Bible Study led by Dave Fetterman. We will explore Jesus' final words from the cross. Bring yourself, a friend, and your favorite Bible for a time of engagement with the scripture, prayer, and fellowship. RSVPs are needed only for childcare and can be made by contacting Tracey Mattes at 412-835-6630 or mattes@westminster-church.org. While it is not necessary, you are welcome to purchase and read Adam Hamilton's book *Final Words from the Cross*. It is available from Amazon.

A Gracious Judge

Several weeks ago the Wednesday Bible Study group was exploring a passage of scripture in Genesis that brought to mind questions about God's justice and goodness. We were led to wonder why God does what he does sometimes and how you can hold a God of justice and testing alongside a God of love and compassion. Those theological puzzles aren't limited to Genesis. Take, for example, words from the book of Numbers. We can read passages like this one and conclude that God is a harsh judge to be feared:

When the people complained intensely in the Lord's hearing, the Lord heard and became angry. Then the Lord's fire burned them and consumed the edges of the camp. (11:1, CEB)

And then read the next verse and conclude that God is a bit of a pushover:

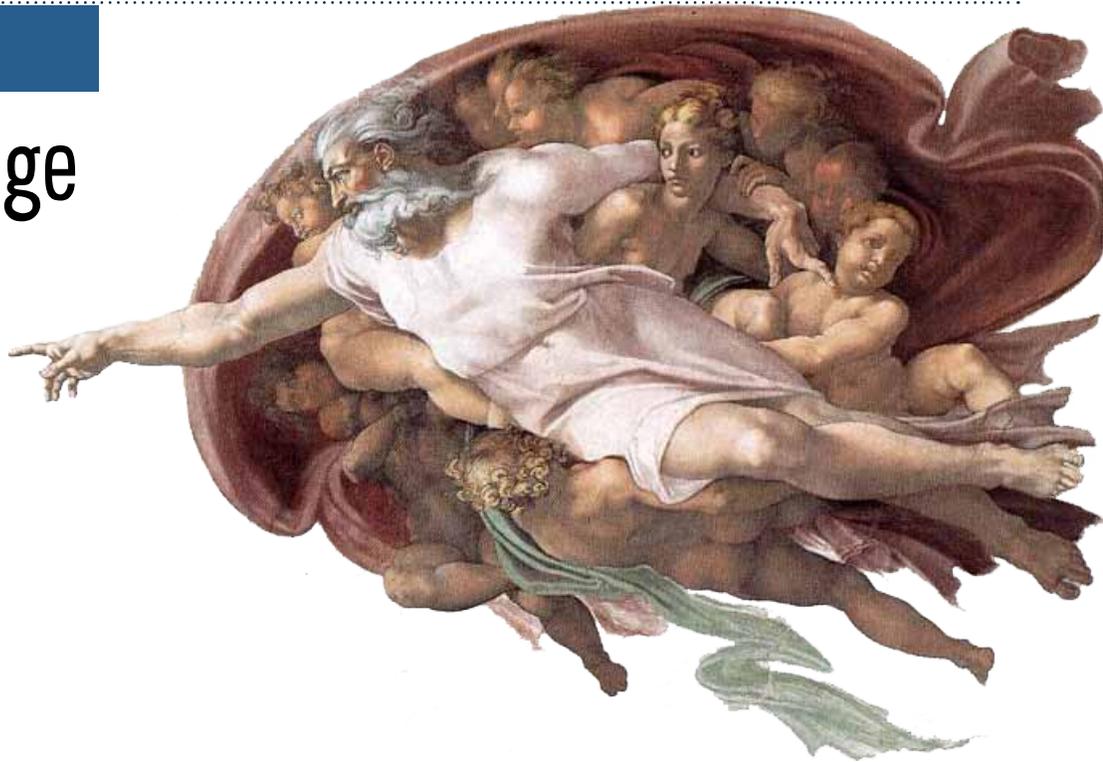
When the people cried out to Moses, Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire subsided. (11:2)

And then remember these earlier verses that remind us of God's steadfast love and mercy:

Tell Aaron and his sons: You will bless the Israelites as follows. Say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his face to you and grant you peace. They will place my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them. (6:23-27)

The story of God's salvation combines anger, judgment, divine change of course, love, and mercy – all in one amazing package. The Israelites that we meet in this story are an often complaining, often whining, people who seem constantly dissatisfied. God demands the best of them and holds them accountable when they fail and forget. God also is attuned to people's voices and needs, relenting when needed – never abandoning his children – even when they abandon him.

How easy it is for us to get a bit puffed up and feel superior to those whiny Israelites. We, like those Israelites, though, are human and subject to the same brokenness that they experienced. God's testing and judgment are part and parcel of our lives, too. And God never abandons us either; God's love is always as near as our breath. The scripture offers us the whole story of salvation not just bits and pieces. As the Lord's fire burns down on us, so



too it relents and the fire subsides. Through it all God blesses us and keeps us, makes his face to shine upon us and is gracious to us.

We live in dangerous times. ISIS continues to threaten the safety of our world. Human need like racism, hunger, poverty, and war continue to cast a shadow over our days. Through those challenging times we may well feel the fire of God burning. As God's fire burns, though, it also subsides. Through all our days God is gracious and compassionate and holding us in loving arms. Even when we don't quite see or feel the reality of that love and mercy, we can cling to it.

Jim Davison offers an important reminder about God's story of salvation that we find in stories like that one from Numbers.

There is judgment in this book: on foreign nations, on Israel, and even on Moses himself. This is a good reminder to us that God does not allow the people of Israel (perhaps we should read "Christians" here!) to do as they please and to take the divine call lightly. However, as elsewhere in the Bible, mercy triumphs over judgment. God remains faithful to the covenant with his people. (*The Year of the Bible*, p. 9)

God's judgment and God's faithful love, held together, make all of the difference in the world between cowering in fear because of a judge who only wags a finger of judgment at us and walking confidently, and repentantly, to a new day, a fuller life, and a deeper discipleship beckoned by a gracious Judge who, in spite of our failure, welcomes us home. Even in dangerous times like ours, this is a hope that never fails.

Shalom.

– Dave Fetterman

Holy Week Labyrinth Walk

During Holy Week, beginning Palm Sunday, March 20, through Saturday afternoon, March 26, the 35-foot canvas labyrinth will be available for meditative walking in Fellowship Hall during the times the church building is open. The labyrinth walk will feature “The Way of the Cross,” a Holy Week meditation. Along the path of the labyrinth, you will encounter Bible verses and pictures depicting the final days of Christ’s journey. In the center, take time to ponder what Christ’s sacrifice means to you. On the way out of the labyrinth, you might think of ways to incorporate what you have thought about on your walk into your life.

Walking the labyrinth is not something to learn or memorize, but something to experience. It is a walking meditation, a path to quiet the mind and become more closely in tune with God. The labyrinth walk is a way to nourish the spirit and provide an opportunity to discover our sacred inner space and find insight into life’s journey. Although the canvas labyrinth is only available indoors during special events, the brick labyrinth in the south courtyard is open for walking anytime.



MISSION

SHIM Has a New Name



South Hills Interfaith Ministries recently announced that it has changed its name to South Hills Interfaith Movement to “better reflect its push to serve at-risk individuals.”**It also has a new logo and website. Need is growing in the suburbs, and SHIM is poised to expand its services in the next five to ten years, with a goal of serving 9,000 people per year. In 2015, SHIM served 4,000 people.

Much of the increased need is among the working poor. Part of a national trend, poverty is growing faster in suburbs than in urban centers. SHIM executive director James Guffey describes “a kaleidoscope of need in the South Hills.”

Westminster helped found SHIM in 1968 and has supported it ever since. As the needs change, Westminster remains committed to helping our neighbors in the name of Christ through SHIM.

**“SHIM aims to serve more individuals afflicted by ‘suburban poverty.’”
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, February 4, 2016.

Save the Dates

Spring Rummage- Recycling Sale

Collection Day: Friday, April 22
Sale Day: Saturday, April 23

Note the change from previously published dates.

Please start collecting your unused/unwanted clothing, shoes, jewelry, household items, appliances, books, decorations, small pieces of furniture (that can be easily transported), etc.

Also, please consider volunteering for this churchwide mission funding project.

Since the church’s Outreach Commission budget has been considerably reduced, the proceeds from our Rummage-Recycling Sales to local organizations and projects are even more critically needed.

Faith, Race, Justice, and Mass Incarceration Conference



Westminster Church collaborated in sponsoring this event at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on February 6 with three other Presbyterian Churches – Grace Memorial, Open Door, and Valley View – in partnership with the seminary. Jim Gilchrist and pastors from the other churches played large planning and leadership roles during the event.

The conference was organized as a follow-up to last summer's seminars about race and justice, sponsored by Westminster's Peace and Justice Group. The three seminars attracted growing audiences and demonstrated an interest among its attendees in developing better relationships with members of churches in Garfield, Homewood, and the Hill District. Over the past decade, Westminster has begun to partner with these churches.

A major goal of this conference was to

build relationships among individuals and the churches, and attendance was intentionally crafted to have a balance of age, race, and church participation. Approximately 60 people attended the event, including 15 WPC members.

The conference included brief messages from several nonprofit organizations active in addressing hunger, poverty, and mass incarceration:

- Dan Emerick, a second year seminary student and an intern at Foundation of Hope, which demonstrates Christian compassion and acts to empower the incarcerated as they approach the end of their imprisonment and to instill values of respect, responsibility, integrity, productivity, and perseverance to help reduce recidivism

- Darlene Rushing from Pittsburgh Presbytery's Amos 5:24 Group ("...let justice roll down like waters...")
- Christian Brooks, a seminary student at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and member of Seminarians United for Racial Justice (SURJ)
- Gordon Jenkins from East Liberty Family Health Care Center, which includes a rehabilitation and addiction program as part of its quality medical care for the insured, uninsured, and underserved

The Rev. Dr. Ron Peters of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church provided the morning worship message.

The featured speaker was the Rev. Dr. Angeliqe Walker-Smith, a national

[...] small groups discussed the role of the church, first to specify actions that the four churches could do together to address injustice, and then to develop relationships through pursuing these shared objectives.

associate from *Bread for the World's* corporate office in Washington, D.C. *Bread for the World* is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to change government policies and to end hunger at home and abroad. Westminster's Outreach Commission has supported *Bread for the World* for years.

Dr. Walker-Smith began on a very personal level, providing examples from within her own extended family as she showed how government policies have resulted in mass incarceration as both a cause and a symptom of poverty and racial inequality. It is this link to hunger and poverty that makes mass incarceration one of the key areas focused on by *Bread for the World*.

Small groups comprising individuals from each church met in the morning to tackle the biblical and theological foundations of the conference topic. In the afternoon the small groups discussed the role of the church, first to specify actions that the four churches could do together to address injustice, and then to develop relationships through pursuing these shared objectives.

As the conference wrapped up, the group members enthusiastically compiled lists of contact information and follow-up activities, which they hope will lead to the recruitment of more interested people, new relationships across the cultural and racial lines among the four churches, and additional advocacy and actions promoting social justice.

If you are interested in learning more about the small groups and how to join in their upcoming activities, please contact Bobbie Hartman. We are eager for you to get involved!

– Will Hignett and Doug Mitchell



Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith from *Bread for the World*



Jim Gilchrist, and Rev. Ron Peters of Grace Memorial

*But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

Amos 5:24

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TOWN HALL SOUTH Invites You to Join Us for the 2016-2017 SEASON

10:10 a.m.

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48th season. (1969-2016)

www.townhallsouth.org



Mitch Albom

October 4, 2016

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster, and musician. Albom is recognized as one of the nation's preeminent journalists, having written syndicated columns through the Detroit Free Press for over 30 years. He hosts a daily radio program and appears regularly on ESPN *The Sports Reporters* and *SportsCenter*.

His breakthrough book, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, has sold over 14 million copies and remains the top-selling memoir of all time. Over the past decade, Albom has devoted himself to philanthropic work. He has raised millions for charitable causes and has founded eight separate charities. Albom operates the orphanage *Have Faith Haiti Mission* in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



Tom Szaky

December 6, 2016

Tom Szaky is the Founder and CEO of TerraCycle, an international leader in the collection and repurposing of hard-to-recycle post-consumer waste, from used chip bags to cigarette butts. On

a yearly basis and across 23 countries, TerraCycle collects and repurposes billions of pieces of waste, creating millions of dollars of donations for schools and charities in the process. Through TerraCycle, Tom Szaky has pioneered a process involving manufacturers, retailers, consumers, and community groups to create circular solutions for waste that otherwise would go to a landfill or be incinerated.

Mr. Szaky and TerraCycle have received over 100 social, environmental, and business awards from a range of organizations including the United Nations, World Economic Forum, and the Environmental Protection Agency.



Suki Kim

February 7, 2017

Suki Kim is the only writer ever to go undercover in North Korea. An award-winning novelist, Kim's obsession with the country led her to pursue journalistic assignments there. She visited North Korea five times over a decade, witnessing both Kim Jong-il's 60th birthday celebrations as well as his death in 2011. Her book *Without You, There Is No Us* chronicles the time she spent teaching the sons of the North Korean elite. Her work sheds new light on a place that has been, for the past 70 years, completely shrouded from the eyes of the world.

She has been the recipient of a Guggenheim, a Fulbright, and an Open Society fellowship. Fluent in Korean, she was born and raised in Seoul, and now lives in New York City.

2016-2017 SEASON



Rikki Klieman
November 1, 2016

Legal analyst and trial attorney Rikki Klieman, was named one of the five most outstanding women lawyers in the country by *TIME* magazine. She is currently a contributor and legal analyst for CBS News. Klieman was an anchor at the Courtroom Television network from 1994 to 2010 and has appeared as a legal analyst on NBC's *Nightly News*, *CBS Evening News*, ABC, CNN, CNBC, and MSNBC. She has been interviewed on radio and television programs about various aspects of criminal and civil law and procedure, including, among others, *60 Minutes*, *20-20*, *The McLaughlin Group*, and *Nightline Special Report*. Klieman was a member of the adjunct faculty at Columbia Law School and an Adjunct Professor at Boston University.



Dr. David Agus
March 7, 2017

Dr. David B. Agus is one of the world's leading oncologists and pioneering biomedical researchers. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Agus has received acclaim for his innovations in medicine and contributions to new technologies, which will continue to change the perception of health and empower people to maintain healthy lives longer. Dr. Agus is a professor of medicine and engineering at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine and Viterbi School of Engineering, where he leads USC's Westside Cancer Center and Center for Applied Molecular Medicine. He also serves as a CBS contributor. His book *A Short Guide to a Long Life* is a *New York Times* bestseller. His latest title, *The Lucky Years How to Thrive in the Brave New World of Health*, was released in January 2016.

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Austin Organ Celebrates Its 25th Year with Organist Isabelle Demers

Sunday, March 13

4:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 at the door; students free

Co-sponsored by the Westminster Music & Arts Series and the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh

Westminster's sanctuary has been blessed with magnificent organ music for 25 years. The 81 rank Austin organ, with its 4,772 pipes, was installed in 1991. In March, we begin the celebration with world-renowned organ virtuoso Isabelle Demers. Her playing has been described as "fearless and extraordinary" and having "bracing virtuosity" in spell-binding performances. At Julliard, she studied organ with Paul Jacobs, native of Washington, PA, and a favorite performer in Pittsburgh and especially at Westminster, where he thrilled audiences in 2000, 2011, and 2014. Jacobs describes his former student: "Isabelle Demers is one of the most brilliant organists I know. She is a *stealth bomber* musician – disarming by her wit and friendly demeanor, only to reveal a tornado of technique intertwined with a deep musical sensitivity."

"Isabelle Demers is one of the most brilliant organists I know. She is a stealth bomber musician – disarming by her wit and friendly demeanor, only to reveal a tornado of technique intertwined with a deep musical sensitivity."

A native of Québec, Demers earned her master's and doctorate at the Julliard School and is now organ professor and head of the organ program at Baylor University in Texas. She is in continual demand as a performer and has made four acclaimed recordings, with another in production. Drawing on her wide repertoire of organ works as well as transcriptions of orchestral music, her programs engage the audience with exciting and passionate playing.

Westminster is honored to be chosen as the venue for Isabelle Demers' appearance on the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh (www.oas-series.com), now in its 37th year. The series, part of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), is dedicated to promoting the performance, recognition, and appreciation of organ music as an art form by bringing many of the world's foremost organists to Pittsburgh. The concert on March 13 is the third of four in the 2015-2016 season. Westminster's Music & Arts Series is proud to co-sponsor this special musical event in our sanctuary.

The program will last about 1 hours, with a brief intermission. The organ console will be in the center of the chancel, where the audience can watch a virtuoso organist's hands and feet in motion. A reception in the north entry follows the concert. It's a wonderful way to enjoy a light bite, meet the Isabelle Demers, and chat with others who've just enjoyed the performance. Plan to attend and hear organ music at its most glorious.



A limited number of free tickets are available to Westminster members, in the church office during the week and at the door on March 13.

Beginning March 1, the Gallery at Westminster will feature the work of four local artists: Sandra Conley, Anne Davis, Stephany Myers, and Jan Pini. The theme for the exhibit is the hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," a poem written by Henry van Dyke in 1907, musically set to the melody of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." This hymn is perfect for a theme, for the verses express so well the feelings these artists try to capture in their work.

Sandra Conley's paintings were inspired by the time she spent in La Croix, Haiti, and reflect her "love for Haiti's people, landscapes, and culture." Sandy is the daughter of a commercial artist and has enjoyed creating art all her life. She states, "Every morning begins with the recognition that God has given me another chance to discover how to be creative, loving, and giving. In each art piece, I strive to reflect some aspect of God's world." Sandy attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and has been involved with many local art groups in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas. Her work can be found in collections in the United States, Haiti, and France.

Anne Davis has developed her artistic talent through local workshops and classes. She enjoys hiking and the outdoors, and finds the beauty of creation to be "so inspiring, and a way God seeks to reveal himself." One of the ways she "seeks to praise God is by depicting the beauty and majesty of his creation" in her art. She paints landscapes, animals, and portraits in a realistic style.

Like Anne, **Jan Pini** is a hiker and loves "to get away from people and the cities and see what nature has to show us." For Jan, "Capturing the beauty of the natural world or portraying the emotions of the moment as expressed in a glance or a setting is a joy." She becomes inspired by the "grandeur of the American Southwest or the intense concentration of a little boy playing in the sand." Jan is a member of many local art groups and has ongoing exhibits throughout the region.

Stephany Myers says that, as a Christian, she is touched by the spiritual beauty she sees in other people and in all of God's creation. "Sometime the inspiration comes from one of God's creatures or from man's interaction with nature, or from man's effect upon the natural." Though most of her works are post-impressionism realism, Stephany enjoys experimental art and has an interest in all forms, mediums, and styles. She specialized in art in college and has studied at many local institutions and workshops. Stephany is a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society. Her paintings have been juried into local and state exhibits, where she has won prestigious awards, and her work can be found in art collections throughout the United States.

Henry van Dyke said the local Berkshire Mountains inspired him to write "The Hymn of Joy" while serving as a guest preacher at Williams College, Massachusetts. In his *Book of Poems*, published in 1911, van Dyke wrote of this hymn: "These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires...." Through their paintings, the artists now featured in the gallery have attempted to visually capture the joyous message so perfectly expressed by van Dyke.

— Betty Digby

Meet 3 More Deacons

Barbara Allwes

I have been a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church for 20 years. My favorite Bible passage from 1 Corinthians 13 reflects how I strive to live: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." As a healthcare professional and member of Westminster, one of my most rewarding experiences was working with the people of Guatemala on a medical mission trip in November 2014. The care our team provided and the smiles of our patients will be with me forever.

Jack Pyckowski

I have attended Westminster Church since I was a small child. In the past several years, I have become actively involved in the church's youth group. I hope to actively help the church and its members in whatever way I can.

Amy Walker

My husband and four children were all baptized and raised at Westminster. I have always felt at peace when I walk through the doors. It is such a special place. I love spending time with my husband and kids and grandson. We love exploring our beautiful city. I am proud to be a 27-year member of Westminster and can't wait to be a deacon.

Financial Report *As of January 31, 2016*

General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2016	\$194,147.07
Annual Budget	\$1,986,000.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$1,791,852.93

Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$224,519.09
Expenses	\$183,100.34
Net Position	\$ 41,418.75

Jacquelyn Olson

February 3

Donald Dempsey

February 16

Session Update

On February 15, Session approved a recommendation to permit a committee under the auspices of the Adult Spiritual Development Commission to seek contributions for a permanent gallery of art to replace what has been a rotating collection in the south entryway. Details will be shared with the congregation this spring.

Session also reviewed the annual statistical report showing 1,791 members as of December 31. Financial contributions were sufficient to meet expenses in 2015, and continue to meet the revised budget so far in 2016, though working on stewardship as an element of Christian discipleship will be an ongoing effort in the months to come.

Employment Opportunity

Graphic Designer, 24 hrs/wk. Strong skills in print and web media, interpersonal relations, and time management. Send resume and cover letter to Dave Reiter, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241 (reiter@westminster-church.org).



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find hope for a brighter future.

Envelopes for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be found in the pew racks on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, as well as in your offering envelope boxes. Thank you for your generous support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

ONE SPIRIT.
Different Gifts.



 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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, March 21, 2016**, 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, March 21**.





**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

Romans 6:9

Easter