



THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

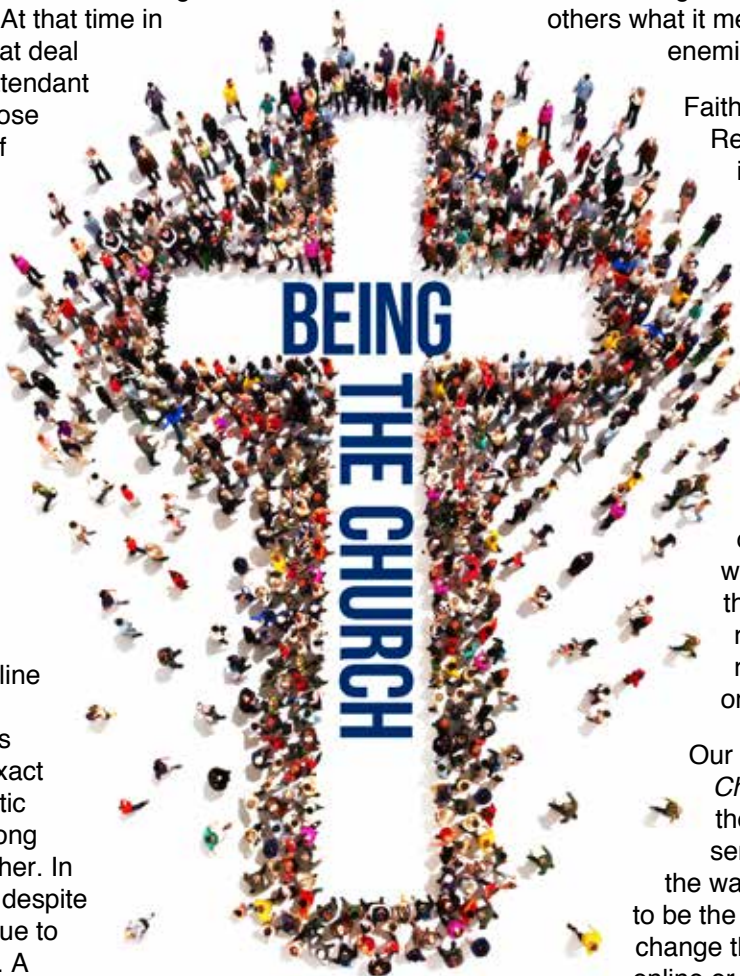
When I purchased my first house, I drained most of my bank account of any money for its needed repairs and learned to use duct tape. The results were never pretty but the all-purpose tape was effective enough in securing anything unruly. At that time in my life, I was traveling a great deal and I recall seeing a flight attendant use duct tape to secure a loose panel in flight and thinking of our mutual resourcefulness.

How times have changed. In 2021, more than one desperate flight crew had to reach for duct tape to restrain unruly passengers. Last year a record number of altercations occurred on commercial airlines with one in five flight attendants experiencing physical violence.

Stories like this pervade our pandemic experience. Frontline workers endure abusive shoppers whose anger flares when they cannot find the exact type of blue cheese. Domestic violence is skyrocketing among families who are stuck together. In 2021, traffic accidents rose, despite a steep decline in volume, due to recklessness and road rage. A record number of firearms were purchased.

Whoa. At some point we need to stop and check our internal thermometers for the simmering tensions and ask ourselves, "Is this who I want to be?"

Long ago, those called to be a part of the church – not a building but a group of people who seek to follow Christ – learned how to navigate a hostile world with faith, hope, and love. Modeling Christ's behavior, they taught others what it means to love neighbors and enemies.



Faith teaches us forgiveness. Read Louise's article in this issue. One of our more potent antidotes to rage rises from this difficult and yet healing practice.

We grow when we learn to speak the truth. Ed convenes safe places to have these candid conversations.

Outreach and volunteer opportunities provide practical ways to be the church. Feed the hungry. Welcome the refugee. Learn about the realities of racial injustice. See one another with God's eyes.

Our sermon series, *Being the Church*, will continue through the month of February. In these sermons, we will reflect upon the ways our faith calls us forward to be the church in 2022 in ways that change this lethal trajectory. Join us online or in person.

I only want to use duct tape to repair my household...not my world.

In faith,
Jo Forrest

CHURCH STAFF

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

Read the *Spire* online at: www.westminster-church.org

The Spire is published monthly by the church staff from September through June. Contributions can be made by emailing a Word document to *Spire* editor Sara Kyle at sara@ruhlekyle.org. The deadline for submitting an article is the fifth day of every month for the following month's issue. Please include the author's name, telephone number, email address, and a title. All articles are subject to editing.

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Worship at Westminster




All are welcome to join Westminster for worship! At the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. traditional services, we invite those who are fully vaccinated to worship without a mask and strongly encourage those who are not vaccinated to wear a mask. At the 9:45 a.m. Bridge service, masks are required of all attendees regardless of vaccination status.

If you are not comfortable attending in person worship or are traveling, visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC or our website for links to the livestream services at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m., or watch anytime later on YouTube.

Bridge Contemporary Worship

 Sundays
 9:45 a.m.
 WROC & YouTube Livestream

Traditional Worship

 Sundays
 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary & YouTube Livestream (11:00 a.m. only)

The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

Upcoming Events

20 FEB Blood Drive

25 FEB Chatham Baroque at Westminster

26 FEB Rise Against Hunger

27 FEB Transfiguration of the Lord
Congregational Meeting

We need your help to Rise Against Hunger

26 FEB



Six million children under the age of 5 die every year because of hunger. You can make a difference by volunteering for Rise Against Hunger here at Westminster.

You'll package meal pouches in assembly line fashion: combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packets. There is a job for everyone ages 4 to 104.

We need 240 volunteers to staff the assembly-line shifts for this one day event. Invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers. In addition to providing a much needed meal to 40,000 children, it will be an opportunity for fun and fellowship for everyone.

To volunteer, please go to our website and register for a shift.



Forgiveness

Who hasn't been hurt by the actions or words of another? Perhaps a parent constantly criticized you growing up, a colleague sabotaged a project, or your friend has let you down, again! Everyone has their own story of disappointment in another person or a community. The question is, what do we do with our emotions? How do we balance our anger or resentment with the prayer we say together each week in worship, "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"? Is forgiveness really practical?

Jesus went to the heart of the matter with his instruction on forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer. He must have known that if we don't practice forgiveness, we will be the one who pays most dearly. Wounds can leave lasting feelings of anger, bitterness, even festering retaliation. Forgiveness means different things to different people. Generally, however, it involves a decision to let go of resentment and set anger aside.

We know that the act that hurt or offended can't go away, but forgiveness can lessen its grip and allow freedom from the control of the person who caused the harm. Forgiving is the gateway to feelings of understanding, empathy, and compassion for the one who has caused the hurt. Praying to forgive doesn't mean forgetting or excusing the harm done. The prayers allow God to be present, offering a peace that helps us go on with life in hope, gratitude, and joy for the future as we embrace a new direction.

Recently, a friend of mine from high school made me very angry by betraying my trust and embarrassing me in a situation. I was deeply hurt because we have shared a

"Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Colossians 3:13

long and special friendship. After several days of stewing about this, I decided to put my faith into action. I contacted her. First, I sent a text and then I called. The first step was difficult, because I was still mad. But when we began to talk, we both felt immediate relief. The two of us have been able to talk about the situation and see it from all sides. This has brought understanding, healing, and even laughter for both of us.

Forgiveness is at the very heart of the gospel. Colossians 3:13 says, "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." A good reminder for us. Each day the sun rises, bringing new opportunities for a bright future of hope and joy with others, with God's leading. Is there someone you need to reach out to in the spirit of reconciliation?

Together on the journey,

Louise

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

I'd like to take a small side-step from my normal *Spire* article to fill you in on some of the great things that are happening around Westminster, and to invite you to join in as the year progresses. First, I'll need to give you some background. Several years ago, our youth commission made an important decision: if we want to minister to the young people of our community, we need to do a better job of ministering to families. We are convinced that families are one of the most effective and primary influences on the life of young people. Imagine if we could help to enable parents to support the faith and development of their children!

Shortly after we made that decision to support and equip families, we began to include parents in the confirmation process. Let's call a spade a spade; in churches all around us confirmation had become a rite of passage. It had lost its namesake of existing as a time and season for young people to truly confirm (or not!) their faith and trust in Jesus. Instead, confirmation had become "what you do when you are in 9th grade." It wasn't a surprise to us that many students came to confirmation because of a parental mandate. We thought to ourselves, "Hey, if parents think it's important for their kids, then it ought to be important to the parents as well!" So, from that moment forward, parents were included in their own confirmation class.

If your kid is in confirmation, so are you! As you might expect, we had the full range of responses: some families decided that confirmation wasn't for them, some showed up begrudgingly, and some were excited to dive right in. In the end, however, I would venture to say that nearly every family and parent that has been included in "parent confirmation" has found value, purpose, connection, and community at some point through the process. You know what I think the "secret sauce" is? We invite honesty. Not all of us have a faith story full of roses and daisies. Not all of us

are interested in "diving deeper." Not all of us buy into every word that gets preached on a Sunday morning. Those are precisely the kinds of conversations we have. Real ones. Honest ones. It turns out that the church can be a pretty good place to explore what's *really* going on in our faith.

It must have been around the time that parent confirmation began when we kicked off another new idea. A men's discussion group based in two simple ideas: Scripture and our lives. Nearly every week we gather to read from Scripture and then ask the question, how has this played out (or not!) in our lives? Sin and grace, humility and arrogance, speaking and listening, leading and following. We've gotten into the habit of hitting on some difficult truths, challenging one another, supporting one another, and growing together. You know what I think the "secret sauce" is? We invite honesty. Bring "the good, the bad, and the ugly," as I've found myself saying more and more. It turns out that the church can be a pretty good place to explore what's *really* going on in our life.

A friend recently pointed out to me that I end nearly every *Spire* article with a line something like, "I'd love to hear your story." I suppose that's the point, isn't it? I'd love to hear your story, not for my sake, but for the sake of all of us. When we share honestly with one another, *we all grow*. I'd love for Westminster to continue down the road of sharing with one another. Keep an eye out for more and more ways to learn and share in places of openness and honesty with one another. I'd love for your voice and your story to be included in our community.

Oh...and of course...I'd love to hear your story.

Be well, friends.

– Ed Sutter



Westminster Seminars

In Person and Online

**Sundays, 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel & Zoom**

The Westminster Seminars address, in various ways, how our beliefs and practices as Christians enrich our lives in today's culture. Everyone is welcome – come every week or whenever the topic appeals and your schedule allows. If you can't join in person or on Zoom, plan to watch or listen later on the Westminster website – under News & Media – here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/news-&-media/westminster-seminars>.

The Zoom meeting opens at 9:30 for greetings and conversation. Find the link on the church website under Featured Events or in the Friday church email.

February Series

Christian Mysticism

Graham Standish

Christianity is a religion grounded in vivid personal and communal experiences of God. The Bible is filled with stories of these mystical experiences, and deep, mystical experiences have been at the core of almost every major Christian movement sparked by people like St. Patrick, St. Francis, Teresa of Avila, Martin Luther, John Calvin, George Fox, Corrie ten Boom, Catherine Marshall, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King Jr., Desmond Tutu, and more.

February 6

What Is a Christian Mystic?

We'll gain a general understanding of the history of Christian spirituality and experience.

February 13

The Foundations for a Mystical Life

We'll be introduced to the foundational insights of Christian mysticism, concepts such as faith, humility, surrender, living in the present moment, seeking divine union, prayer, discernment, and much more.

February 20

Stories of the Mystics

We'll hear and discuss the experiences of those regarded as mystics of Christian history, and explore how to translate their experiences into our lives.

February 27

Becoming a Practical Mystic

There are certain perspectives, attitudes, and practices that nurture us to form a deeper mystical awareness and life. This class will explore how to adopt them in ways that still allow us to live healthy, active lives.

We are honored to welcome back the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish to present this most intriguing series. He is executive director of Samaritan Counseling, Guidance, and Consulting and director of their Caring for Clergy and Congregations program. He is the author of numerous books on Christian spirituality and congregational transformation. He has been an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a spiritual director and clergy coach, and pastor of dynamic and growing churches for over 33 years.

Silence for our lives

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Prayer to Begin the Day

Jesus, I desire to start this day with you. And yet, my mind keeps flitting to so many things:

*the projects I want to accomplish,
the people I want to talk to,
the people I wish I didn't have to
talk to.*

I wonder: Are these things distractions to spiritual concentration or invitations to see God in the ordinary? I'm not sure, Jesus, I know that you are that Center who knows no distraction. So I offer up my mental fragmentation to you, O Lord my God. May my scatteredness become your gatheredness. As I'm contemplating a thousand things, Jesus, may I somehow be contemplating you. Amen.

from *Prayers from the Heart*
by Richard Foster

Westminster Book Group

Wednesday, February 23

Noon – 1:15 p.m.

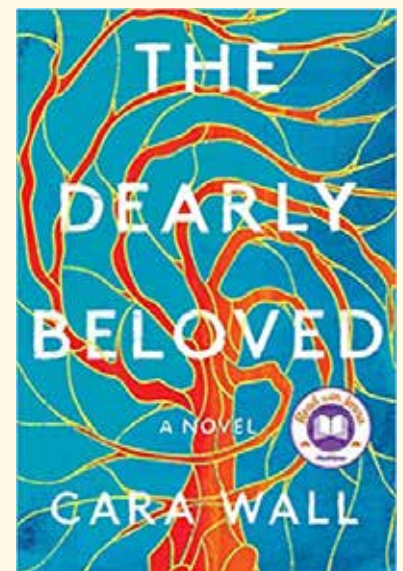
Room 238

At the next meeting of the Westminster Book Group, we will discuss *The Dearly Beloved* by Cara Wall. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and join us.

"This wonderful book has all the things that are hardest to find in literature: good marriages sustained by abiding love; nourishing friendships that endure trials; nuanced explorations of religious faith; and characters who strive to do good for others while battling their own demons. What it has, in short, is that hardest-won of qualities in a novel: genuine goodness. None of the extraordinary humanity in this book feels unearned; it's as if Wall has stared into the abyss of real life and come out with energy, hope, and a story suffused in light."

– Matthew Thomas

New York Times bestselling author of *We Are Not Ourselves*

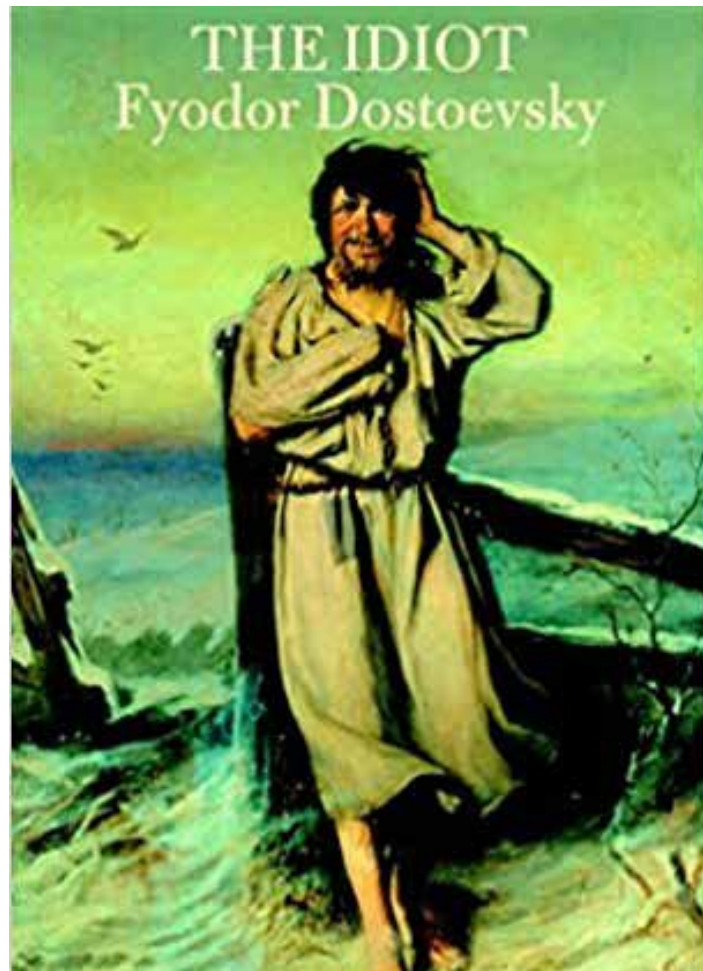


A Reflection on *The Idiot* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Since I retired over a year ago, I've had to figure out what to do with all the time I now have. At the same time that I began my retirement the pandemic hit us all, and added isolation to our lives. For me that made deciding what to do even more challenging than having an abundance of time. Of course, I had made my list of things I wanted to do before I vacated my law office. But adding all the things I could to my daily agenda, such as volunteering and teaching, I still had plenty of time left over. That allowed me to indulge in my passion for reading. I had my reading list.

For years, among other authors, I had wanted to read Dostoyevsky's novels. But I knew this would be a labor of love with the intensity I couldn't indulge in as a busy lawyer. At long last, in retirement I set upon this quest to immerse myself in 19th-century Russian life from the perspective of a Russian author who was a struggling genius with an unsurpassed eye to things around him. I had always revered Dostoyevsky along with other great Russian novelists and musical composers. So I took the deep dive and read *Crime and Punishment*, *The Brothers Karamatsov*, and *The Idiot*. Since I've just emerged from this frothy bath in Russia à la Dostoyevsky, I would like to share my thoughts on *The Idiot*. It's the novel that spoke most personally to me due to my own spiritual experiences.

Dostoyevsky's characters in *The Idiot* display a panorama of psychological maladjustments that keep the reader amused, entertained, intrigued, and revolted. The aristocratic and the displaced alike seem unhinged from a life of order and harmony, whether societal or psychological. This arguably exaggerated portrayal isn't far, to be honest with ourselves, from the state of the world today. I want to deny this myself with the thought that, as Anne Frank expressed it, people, in spite of it all, are basically good. Well, let's say we have good intentions, but so much for our intentions. Enter *The Idiot*. Against its panoply of disordered characters, *The Idiot* offers "the prince," Myshkin, who displays qualities of a Jesus-like figure, including a clear sense of human nature, forgiveness, empathy, and intuition about a better humanity. He sees pathology but lacks other usual human features such as rejection, fault-finding, and condemnation. But he's also prone to (stress-related?) seizures.



He begins by being either venerated or repulsed by others for his virtues, and ends up being pitied for his ultimate mental breakdown. In this book, more than in *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamatsov*, Dostoyevsky demonstrates the contradiction between the divine and the human by displaying in one character the only possible result of their unity, a failure of integration. Was Dostoyevsky's point that a real Jesus-like person has never lived, and can't, in a human who isn't also God? Is it true that human life is too toxic for God to be a part of it? Whom do we fail to understand, ourselves or God? What does it mean to be made in God's image? Dostoyevsky gives us his best punch in this book. Must we always fail? Are we all really idiots? These are, of course, rhetorical questions. Dostoyevsky doesn't explicitly raise them. Even a genius would struggle to do so. But I hear echoes of these very questions throughout the Bible.

– John Hayes

*“My intention is to portray
a truly beautiful soul.”*

– Dostoevsky

Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation

Sunday, February 6
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccinations required.



A reminder to register by February 3.

The gap in wealth between Black and White families is on the order of 13:1.

- How did this happen?
- What can we do to repair this inequity?

To help answer these questions, Westminster's Peace and Justice team is bringing the Rev. Liddy Barlow from Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania to lead us in Bread for the World's instructional simulation.

See the January *Spire* article for more details here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/news-&-media/the-spire-online/racial-wealth-gap-learning-simulation>. The event is free, but we need to know how many people we will have. Register on Westminster's website here: <https://www.westminster-church.org/events/event-list/racial-wealth-gap-learning-simulation>. Contact Bobbie Hartman at hartman1967@verizon.net with questions.

WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER

Have your treasures appraised!

WROC Talk: "What's It Worth?" Antiques Road Show

Tuesday, February 15
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Cost: Free; registration required
Instructor: Michael Ivankovich via Zoom

Join us as we welcome author, auctioneer, appraiser, and radio show host Mike Ivankovich via Zoom in Fellowship Hall.

Visit wroc.westminster-church.org for details and registration.





Meals on Wheels @ The Crossroads

The Meals on Wheels program that Westminster supports was started in 1974 at St. David’s Episcopal Church by a group of women from local churches. They were encouraged to do this by a doctor who realized that people coming home from the hospital needed help with meals. Each church provided the cooks and drivers for one day of the week. Later the organization began recruiting volunteers independent of church affiliation and moved to a larger space over the Peters Township Fire Department. In 2018 it moved to its current location at Donaldson’s Crossroads.

The stated mission is to provide a hot nutritious meal to anyone in the area who has difficulty shopping for food or cooking meals, regardless of income or ability to pay. The organization primarily serves senior citizens but also assists persons with disabilities, such as mobility or vision problems or developmental difficulties. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday including on holidays. For \$5 a day clients receive a hot well-balanced noonday meal and a cup of soup, sandwich, or salad for a lighter evening meal. An unusual feature of this Meals on Wheels program is that it can provide individualized diets for those who need chopped or pureed food or have serious food allergies or other dietary problems. Frozen meals can also be provided for the weekend if needed.

A secondary mission, but one that is often equally important, is checking on the well-being of clients through a short visit with them. If a driver sees a problem, a family member or emergency contact is immediately alerted.

Susan Hanawalt, the executive director, explained that they view their mission in the broader sense as connecting people who need help with people who want to help. For example:

- A local farmer who has a large farm to run and cares for his wife who has dementia was struggling to provide meals for the two of them. He said it’s been such a blessing to have meals delivered to them, and he also appreciates having someone to talk to for a few minutes a day.
- A young diabetic living alone in a small apartment requested meals for only two days a week because that was all he felt he could afford. A short visit with this client revealed that he did not have a microwave to reheat the food and very little in the way of household

furnishings. When the drivers on his route were notified about this, the next day the client had a microwave along with an outpouring of other supplies including sheets, towels, and a vacuum cleaner. And this client is now receiving healthy meals five days a week thanks to the generous donations of individuals.

When the pandemic began, many members of the broader community rallied to help Meals on Wheels support its clients, initially with donations of canned and packaged foods and then with fresh fruit, cookies, and cheerful greeting cards for the holidays. A generous grant from the Washington County Community Foundation in 2021 enabled Meals on Wheels to provide every client with a bag of groceries (eggs, cereal, toilet paper, paper towels) every other week for seven months. Clients indicated how grateful they were for all these items.

Before the onset of COVID the program typically had about 250 volunteers over the course of a month. Since then, the preparation of about 150 meals a day has been limited to the four staff members and 1 or 2 on-site volunteers. A group of drivers cover the 11 daily routes in the program’s service area, which includes McMurray, Venetia, Finleyville, Lawrence, Canonsburg, Muse, Houston, Hendersonville, and parts of Eighty Four, Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair, Bridgeville, and South Fayette Township. Most drivers deliver meals one day a week or every other week.



Over the years Westminster members have been actively engaged with Meals on Wheels. Some have helped with on-site food preparation and meal delivery; others have served on the Board of Directors. And children have made cards and holiday placements for the clients. Last summer when the Outreach Commission found out Meals on Wheels needed cupcakes, it sponsored two cupcake baking events at the church. Each time about a dozen volunteers prepared, baked, and frosted 400+ cupcakes in a little over two hours. Westminster volunteers enjoyed a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and hands-on service, and Meals on Wheels received a large supply of cupcakes, a treat its clients particularly enjoy.

Financial contributions from the Outreach budget and Presbyterian Women have been used to help with rising food and supply costs and to help cover the cost of meals for people who can't afford them. This Meals on Wheels program operates independently and does not receive any government funding. It gets significant support from the Washington County Community Foundation, Heisler's Market, Panera, and 412 Food Rescue, which provides weekly deliveries of fresh fruits and vegetables from the South Fayette Giant Eagle. Other funders include local civic and church groups and many generous individuals.

Once the COVID crisis is past, volunteers will be welcomed back to help with food preparation on site as well as with dessert and cookie baking at home. In the meantime, you can:

- Volunteer to be a driver or substitute driver for one of the 11 daily routes.
- Receive community service credits for baking if you are a student.
- Make individual donations to help cover rising food costs and provide meals for people who can't afford them through the "Angel Fund."

– Linda Robinson

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has been supported by Westminster Church for well over 40 years, usually through an annual \$5,000 contribution to fund a scholarship for a seminary student seeking a career in ministry. This mission relationship goes well beyond "writing a check," however.

Westminster's lengthy relationship with PTS has included employing many student interns, most recently Gavin Walton who now serves as pastor to Grace Memorial Church in the Hill District. Many other PTS interns have served WPC, usually as youth advisors, and several of our own congregation's members have served as interns: Dirk Lesnett, who is head pastor at Elfinwild United Presbyterian Church, and David Paul, who is now head pastor at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople are two examples.

Over the years Westminster's relationship with the seminary has nurtured the pastoral calls of many, including Louise Rogers, Jason Freyer, and Cassandra Millis. Many other adult WPC members have attended or graduated from PTS, for a degree or simply for personal education.

Westminster members regularly attend the seminary's various lecture series on topics such as racism, world hunger, theological topics and issues, Bible studies, and the annual World Mission Conference of international missionaries that has been held there for decades. The Sunday morning seminars at Westminster regularly feature seminary professors who present a wide range of thought-provoking topics.

In 2016, Westminster members joined the PTS World Mission Initiative's mission trip to Israel, organized and facilitated by Westminster's senior pastor, Jim Gilchrist, and Professor Steven Tuell from PTS.

In addition to our longtime Outreach commitment to a student scholarship, Westminster established another scholarship named for the Rev. Tammy Yeager at the time of her retirement from Westminster, funded by many voluntary donations from church members. The endowed scholarship provides tuition for a Pittsburgh Seminary student each year who demonstrates financial need, as determined by the seminary's policy, and gives first preference to students sensing a call to pastoral ministry, preferably though not necessarily in the Presbyterian Church. So, imagine two new pastors each year emerging to preach the gospel through Westminster's relationship with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary!

– Doug Mitchell

Music @ Westminster

Meet the Quartet

The Westminster Chancel Choir is comprised of 60 voices, mostly volunteer. But for the past 20 years, we have been delighted to have four professional section leaders joining our ranks. They assist in leading worship at the 8:30 services on Sundays, and as part of the Chancel Choir at 11:00. Not only excellent musicians, they are a group of fun loving people, a prerequisite to membership in the Chancel Choir! The current members of the Quartet – Katy Williams, Holly Jones, Rich Williams, Vinay Thomas – are all relatively new to their positions. We wanted to provide an opportunity for you to get to know them a little better. We extend a fond welcome to the Quartet!



Vinay Thomas

Vinay Thomas feels privileged to be the bass soloist in the Quartet and bass section leader in the Chancel Choir! Music has always been one of his greatest loves, and he is grateful to have had family and teachers who saw that his gifts lay in the arts before he realized that himself. Vinay pursued two music degrees, a BA in music and a master's in choral conducting, through which he gained skills in singing, conducting, and arts administration. Though early in his artistic career, Vinay has realized that music is not just a passion. Music is where he is best equipped to use his skills to give back to the community.

Vinay could not be happier to have moved to this "wonderful 'big-small town' of Pittsburgh that is so full of arts and culture in its identity." Currently, he is artistic administrator at the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, focusing on community outreach projects. Not coincidentally, Vinay's connection to Pittsburgh and to Westminster is the Mendelssohn Choir's music director, Matt Mehaffey, who was also his music professor at the University of Minnesota. Matt grew up in Upper St. Clair and attended this church, and convinced Vinay to give Pittsburgh a shot. Pittsburgh symbolizes the start of a new chapter for Vinay as he has moved into professional life working in the nonprofit sphere. Vinay is grateful to begin that chapter here. After growing up in Dallas and then moving to Minneapolis, Pittsburgh is a city that feels "just right," (despite how confusing it is to get around!). Vinay says there is a lot to love, but for him the biggest draw is always the people. Everywhere he goes, people radiate kindness and welcome him with open arms. In his words, "I have not been to another place with people more welcoming, and I can't imagine I ever will!"

Rich Williams

Rich Williams is an avid singer and has performed extensively in the Pittsburgh area with such groups as Pittsburgh Opera, Voces Solis, Mendelssohn Choir, Resonance Works, River City Brass Band, Believe men's ensemble, and Aria412. He has been a featured soloist for such major works as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Haydn's *Creation* and *Lord Nelson Mass*, Doug Starr's *All Saints Requiem*, and numerous Bach cantatas. Other notable musical highlights include playing one of the River City townfolk in a semi-staged 2009 production of *The Music Man* at Heinz Hall, featuring Shirley Jones and conducted by Marvin Hamlisch. Rich has also had the pleasure of performing as a choral "backup singer" with such internationally acclaimed artists as Sarah Brightman, Andrea Bocelli, and the Chieftains. A Nashville native and chemical engineering graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Rich is an employee of the Bettis Laboratory.

Rich has long had numerous friends in the Westminster Chancel Choir and had sung for selected events at Westminster over the years before becoming the tenor section leader in 2019. He is enjoying the opportunity to sing in such a beautiful sanctuary and feels warmly welcomed by the Westminster church family. Getting to sing and worship every week with his wife, Katy, is also a big plus. Rich and Katy met in the concert choir while students at Carnegie Mellon.

Katy Williams

Katy Williams has been the soprano section leader and soloist since 2019. She loves being here at Westminster with Christine Hestwood, Lorraine Milovac, Jim Burns, and this incredible music program. Katy has performed in the Pittsburgh music scene for 27 non-consecutive years. She attended Carnegie Mellon University in 1989 where

she earned a BFA in vocal performance, married the tenor (Rich Williams) in 1994, moved to Florida and South Carolina in 1995 and finally moved back to Pittsburgh in 2001. Since arriving in the Steel City Katy has worked for various prestigious organizations, including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Opera, Civic Light Opera, Quantum Theatre, the Mendelssohn Choir, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, River City Brass Band, Carnivale Theatricals, and Front Porch. There is barely a musical group that she hasn't worked with, and if she hasn't, it's on her bucket list to perform with them.

When she isn't singing or teaching, Katy loves baking, walking her dogs, spending time with her kids Mitch and Sarah, and collecting cute cow things. She loves all things cow. They are just so adorable and they are responsible for making cheese, her favorite food!

Holly Wine Jones

And last but certainly not least is Holly Wine Jones, our alto section leader. Holly received a BA and BS in broadcast communications and business management from Alderson Broaddus College. Holly and her husband David have been members of Westminster since 2003, and she has been involved with the music department ever since. She is loving getting to know the fabulous group of alto women. She is also the director of our junior choir, children in 3rd through 6th grades. Holly is the resident music director of Little Lake Theater in McMurray and is also the co-choir director at Upper St. Clair Boyce Middle School. As a private vocal coach, Holly loves helping people of all ages and backgrounds find their voice. Holly and David have two children, Megan and Christian, whom she joins in many musical endeavors.

– Eileen Murray

WESTMINSTER MUSIC & ARTS SERIES

Chatham Baroque at Westminster: Les Nations

Friday, February 25
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Music from the Time of Louis XIV and XV

Chatham Baroque welcomes extraordinary guest artists Stephen Schultz (baroque flute), Caroline Giassi (baroque oboe), and Justin Wallace (harpsichord) to form a chamber ensemble that one might find at the palace of Versailles. The concert will take you on an elegant musical trip to the years before the French Revolution. You will hear the luxuriant music that defines the French national style, including François Couperin's *Les Nations*, a suite from Marin Marais' *Pièces en trio*, and the *troisième pièce* of the *Pièces de Clavecin en Concert* by Jean-Philippe Rameau.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at www.chathambaroque.org. Pick up online tickets in the narthex at Will Call before the concert. All subscribers and advance single ticket buyers will automatically receive a link to the concert video once it is released at no additional charge.

Proof of vaccination, ID, and masks are required for attendance. Read more about Chatham Baroque's COVID safety protocols on their website.



Performers

Stephen Schultz, *baroque flute*; Caroline Giassi, *baroque oboe*; Justin Wallace, *harpsichord*

Andrew Fouts, *violin*; Scott Pauley, *theorbo and archlute*; Patricia Halverson, *viola da gamba and violone*



Blood Drive

Sunday, February 20
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Westminster Deacons are hosting their first blood drive of the year on Sunday, February 20. We invite everyone in the congregation who is 18 and over to consider donating for this worthy cause. Our doors are also open to the community, and we welcome additional donors for this event. The Westminster Deacons thank you for your continuing support in the worthy mission of donating blood.

Vitalant will provide staff and supplies to handle 40 or more donors and they are now requiring all donors to:

- Make an appointment.
- Wear a mask.
- Get a temperature check on site.

Read more about Vitalant's precautionary measures at www.vitalant.org. **Please preregister for your appointment** by using sponsor code G0010171,

in order to secure a time slot. Registration is easily done by phone or online at www.vitalant.org.

In order to donate, you must:

- Be 18 years or older (17 with parental consent)
- Weigh at least 110 lbs.
- Not have donated within the last 56 days
- Be in good health

Medications such as insulin, aspirin, and high blood pressure treatments do not prevent you from donating. If you have any medical questions, please call Vitalant at 877-258-4825.

For those planning to donate, please remember to eat a good breakfast and drink plenty of non-caffeinated beverages. There will be snacks and goodies available for all donors!

The Westminster Deacons thank you for supporting this worthy mission.

Financial Report

As of December 31, 2021

DECEMBER 2021	Actual	Budget
Income	\$246,657	\$273,275
Expense	\$227,712	\$138,988
Variance	\$18,945	\$134,287

YTD 2021	Actual	Budget
Income	\$2,218,752	\$1,822,025
Expense	\$1,972,854	\$1,820,148
Variance	\$245,898	\$1,877

**ENDOWMENT
LOAN BALANCE** \$1,031,768

Ordination/Installation @ Westminster

Below are images from worship on Sunday, January 23, when Westminster welcomed new officers into the life of the congregation. Thank you to:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Jeff Ewing | Colin Eccher | Logan Carmichael | Amy Ranalli |
| David Heilman | John Marsh | Missy DalBon | Richard Ralston |
| Alecia Klonicke | Mary Lou Price | Beth Jenkins | Sandy Thompson |
| Cricket Ruppert | Josi Seftchick | Sara Locke | Debby Underwood |
| Brian Eccher | Yvonne Bly | Jerry Malarkey | Deborah Waller |



Deaths

Edward (Ed) Houck
January 10

Helen Watson
January 11

Doris Bower
January 13





WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2040 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
www.westminster-church.org
A PC(USA) Congregation

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DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh



www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror,



are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory
to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

– 2 Corinthians 3:17-18