



# THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

## Wonder

One Easter Sunday, we decided to illustrate the resurrection with the children by using flower bulbs. The lesson went like this:

What takes place if we put this in the ground? That's right – it can grow into a beautiful flower full of life. When they put Jesus to death on the cross, most of the people thought he was dead and gone forever. But he rose from the darkness of the grave. When you look around outside and see flowers coming up through the ground, remember that Jesus came back to life and offers us new life.

Young Megan was delighted to receive her bag of flower bulbs. Her mother told me that before anyone could sit down for Easter dinner, the entire family went outside to plant the bulbs in the crusty dirt. Megan was faithful in watching for any sign of growth. Each day she watered the dirt and gave a report to the family at dinner time. Finally, after a stretch of spring sunshine, a green leaf poked through. Delighted, the family again gathered at the garden to share Megan's wonder as she narrated the lesson – Jesus rose from the darkness and gave new life. Eventually, the leaves produced a full plant which brought forth a yellow cluster of flowers. No one was more proud of her special blossoms than Megan. Although other flowers sprouted in the garden, these sacred blooms reminded the family of God's love. When Megan's mother looked out the kitchen window, she smiled at her daughter's delight and at the symbol of God's ongoing spirit to encourage her and the family in their daily life. The child led them to see the sacred in the ordinary.

At Easter we hear of a woman who stood in a garden watching, distressed and confused. Suddenly, Mary Magdalene encountered the risen Lord himself! She became the one to carry the incredible news, "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18) At this important moment in the Gospel story, in salvation history, a woman, Mary Magdalene, represents that thread of hope that runs through the Scriptures like indestructible gold: God's trust of the small ones, the ones who are searching, the ones whom God lifts up to shine like the sun. How ironic, and how wonderful, that Jesus entrusts the message of our faith to one of the "least," one of the "small ones." And yet, how very appropriate of God's love!



Mary Magdalene's garden encounter with the risen Christ is available to us in different forms today when we experience resurrection and new life, when we encounter the risen Christ in our own lives.

*"The Resurrection is not a single event, but a loosening of God's power and light into the earth and history that continues to alter all things, infusing them with the grace and power of God's own holiness. It is as though a door was opened, and what poured out will never be stopped, and that door cannot be closed."*

—Megan McKenna

I hope we will all continue to live with the wonder of a child and the amazement of Mary as we discover the presence of Jesus who indeed is Risen!

With joy,  
Louise

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CENTER (WROC)**

KATHY LONG, *Director*

**NURSERY SCHOOL**

412-835-2906

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

412-835-9450

Staff email addresses and phone  
extensions are available on our website,  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org).

Read the *Spire* online at:

[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)

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telephone number, email address, and a title.  
All articles are subject to editing.

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### Traditional Worship

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📍	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.*

# Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

## Maundy Thursday Thursday, April 18

Worship Service  
7:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary

## Easter Sunday Sunday, April 21

8:30 a.m.  
Traditional Worship  
Sanctuary

11:00 a.m.  
Traditional Worship  
Sanctuary

9:45 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship  
WROC



### Upcoming Events

**05**  
APR Chatham  
Baroque  
*in the sanctuary*

**14**  
APR Palm Sunday

**18**  
APR Maundy  
Thursday  
Service  
7:30 p.m.

**27**  
APR Rummage-  
Recycling Sale

# A Message from Westminster's Interim Pastor and Head of Staff

My Friends,

Cathi and I are looking forward to our move to Upper St. Clair, as the old song says, "getting to know you" as we join in the life of a wonderful congregation and explore a new city.

During my visit last month when I met with the Session, I was often asked, "Is this the farthest north you've ever lived?" The answer is "Yes"; most of my ministry has been in the Southeast U.S., with a foray into Missouri and Texas. But I am already learning to exchange my Southern "Y'all" for a Pittsburgh "Yinz"!

Another thing about being new in a church is names. Please help me by telling me your name when we meet. I'll remember it eventually, but even if you've told me before, I would appreciate a gentle reminder.

That leads to what I imagine will be the second most asked question: "Just what does an interim pastor do?"

This is a two-part answer: First, there is the pastoral nature of this ministry, and the second part deals with the interim nature.

As a pastor, there is no real difference between the ministries of an interim or permanent pastor. I will preach, teach, visit, counsel, serve as moderator of the Session and as head of staff, and have all the other duties a minister has.

The difference, however, is in the second part of this answer. The key word is *interim*. And let me be clear as we begin our time together: as interim pastor, I cannot be considered as a candidate for pastor.

I will be here only until you call your new pastor. How long will that be? No one knows for sure, but it should be a "Goldilocks" time: not too long, not too short, but just right. I've been told that it generally takes 18 to 24 months for a congregation to call a new pastor. But please don't set your calendar by that. The timing belongs to God, and I will be here as long as I need to be according to God's plan for Westminster Presbyterian Church.

We will be guided by the question, "What does God desire for this congregation to be and do as it prepares to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a new pastor?" The answer will be shaped as the Holy Spirit works through you – your faith, hope, and love – building on a strong foundation, eagerly preparing for the next chapter in the honored history of this church.

I am excited to serve with you as interim pastor, and I ask you to keep me in your prayers.

Thanks and blessings,

Bruce Lancaster



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# Meet Bruce Lancaster

I am a native of Louisiana, having grown up in the small town of Vidalia, on the banks of the Mississippi River. I graduated from Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, Louisiana, in 1973 with a degree in business administration and went to work as the assistant director of Lookout Mountain Camp and Conference Center in Mentone, Alabama.

In the fall of 1975, I heard the call to ministry and returned to Louisiana in order to enter Columbia Theological Seminary as a candidate from my home church. After 26 years of serving installed pastorates in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Virginia, while on a sabbatical, I heard a new call – to enter the field of Interim Ministry. I have served as interim pastor in Darlington, South Carolina; Greenville, Mississippi; Knoxville, Tennessee; Amelia Island, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri; Austin, Texas; and most recently with First Presbyterian Church in Athens, Georgia.

I have found the challenges and joys of Interim Ministry to be most fulfilling. A good description of what needs to happen as a church makes the transition between installed pastors is found in a poem by the late Mattie Stepanek, “What really matters is choosing what really matters.” My call as interim pastor is to provide guidance, support, and encouragement as a congregation discerns not just the answers, but the right questions about what really matters for mission and ministry as the church prepares for life with a new pastor.

My wife, Cathi, and I have been married for nearly 43 years. Cathi works as an educational consultant for Head Start and early childhood programs. We have two daughters, Eleanor and Emily. Eleanor and Jeff are parents of our grandson Marshall and granddaughter, Cameron, and live in Atlanta, Georgia. Emily is married to Beau. They are parents of our grandson Grigsby and are expecting our fourth grandchild in July; they live in Beaumont, Texas.

Cathi and I enjoy traveling and getting together with our extended families, especially time with our grandchildren. We enjoy the theater, movies, walking, and dinner with friends. I like to cook as a way of relaxing. A special hobby is putting together photobooks of family events and vacations. Golf is one activity I always wish I had more time for, and the way I play shows my wish has never been granted. I like most of the spectator sports (particularly college football and basketball), and I really like ice hockey. I like to sit back with a good novel or biography for pleasure reading; am eclectic in my musical playlists; and I drink my coffee black!



WESTMINSTER SEMINARS

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

April 7, 14, 28

# Consumed: Christian Witness in a Transactional World

Scott J. Hagley, Assistant Professor of Missiology,  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

We may not like to admit it, but we have largely made peace with our consumer-driven world and adapted a form of Christianity amenable to market realities. Sociologists describe the modern American congregation in largely consumerist terms, as congregations compete with one another to provide religious goods and services. Yet, our movies, novels, pundits, prophets, and cultural critics long for alternative, non-transactional ways to engage the world. This three-part series will explore three interrelated questions: How do we think theologically about our market economy? In what ways has the church been co-opted by the logics of consumer capitalism, and what are the consequences for the life of faith and witness? And finally, what is the good news of the gospel for the church and a consumer society like ours?



## Scott Hagley

*Scott Hagley teaches missiology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Before moving to Pittsburgh, he served as director of education at Forge Canada, where he developed curriculum for the formation of missional leaders in hubs across Canada. He also served as teaching pastor at Southside Community Church, a church in the Vancouver area organized around neighborhood-based missional communities. His first book, Eat What Is Set Before You: A Missiology of the Congregation in Context, was released in early 2019. It focuses on the problems and possibilities for congregations attempting to build bridges with neighborhood partners for the sake of God's mission.*

**The seminar will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 21.**

# Empty

A few years ago, I tried to plan my *Spire* articles, at least thematically, an entire year ahead of time. I made a list of the months and topics for my articles. Which is interesting, because what felt like a well thought out, well planned topic in September could seem like absolute rubbish by the time, say, April rolled around.

For instance, all I wrote down for April's article was *Empty*.

I know this may be frightening, but let's take a look at the conversation that unfolded in my head:

"Why would I leave April empty? I have a topic for March, and I have a topic for May. Why is this just labeled 'empty'? Did I perhaps want to play a trick on myself? Was this another in a long line of assuming that future-J will work it all out? Why do I trust future-J so much?"

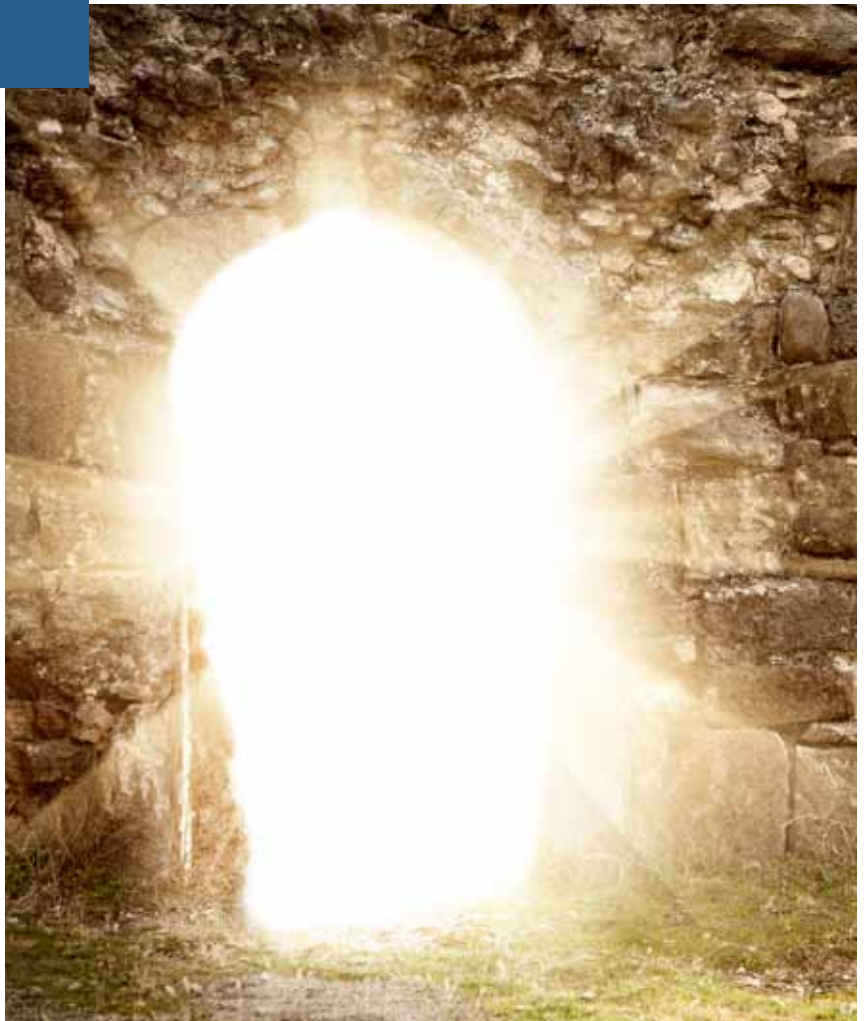
"Oh! Wait! Empty is not a state of being, *empty* is the topic! Boy, that's kind of depressing, isn't it? Why do I want to spend so much time talking about being empty? And empty of what? Empty of feeling? Empty of joy? Empty stomachs? Maybe I should order some Chipotle..."

When we think of the word *empty*, these are the thoughts that come to mind, are they not? Empty is not usually a good thing. If my bank account is empty, I'm in trouble. If my cupboards are empty, I'm probably hungry. If my spirit is empty, I'm in some kind of hurt. Empty is a bad thing most of the time. Empty is awful. Empty is draining. Empty is depressing.

And yet, the word *empty* is maybe the most hopeful word we have as Christians.

Perhaps you've heard the story before. The Son of God came down to dwell among us and teach us about the peaceable kingdom that God desires for all of us. Some people didn't take too kindly to this kind of teaching, and so they decided to kill the Son of God. The one person who lived in the world without sin, the one person who could have made it out alive as they say, the one person who didn't deserve to die, was there on the cross for you and for me. We've heard that story. We know that story. We live that story.

But here we must be careful, because there are certain segments of the Christian faith that want the story to end there. You are a sinner, sinners deserve death – but good news, Jesus died on the cross for your sins! There's a comforting formulaic approach to that story, and I understand that. But the story doesn't end there. The story doesn't end on the cross. The story doesn't end in death. The story ends three days later. The story ends with some women who came to care for a body. The story ends at a tomb.



An *empty* tomb.

You see, if our story ends with Jesus' death as substitution for ours, that does indeed achieve our goal of living a life with God, but it turns this current life into some kind of waiting room. We're here, we try to do the right things, but we really get to cash in when we die and get to be in heaven, so let's all just hang out. I don't think that's the message of the empty tomb. The empty tomb reminds us that this life matters. The empty tomb reminds us that death does not have the last word, neither our physical death nor the countless little deaths we experience every day. Betrayal doesn't have the last word. Insult doesn't have the last word. Poverty doesn't have the last word. Depression doesn't have the last word. The empty tomb, the new life in Christ, the goodness of the present Kingdom here and now, those are the things that get the last word.

The trick is to build a life around the sacrifice of the cross *and* the new life offered in the empty tomb. The full Christian recognizes that they are both forgiven of their sins and empowered to lead a new life. We are people who celebrate emptiness.

Even, and perhaps especially, when we can't remember what emptiness we mean!

– Jason Freyer

## BETWEEN HERE &amp; THERE

My family and I were driving to a birthday party a few weekends ago, and as our daughters napped in the backseat my wife and I listened to a podcast on decision making. The first part of the program we heard was one of those “that went downhill pretty fast” kinds of stories. After the storyteller finished, the host asked him something like, “Do you think you made the right decision?” It was an appropriate question for lots of reasons, not the least being that decisions was the topic at hand. The problem I saw with the question, however, was *which* decision the host was referring to. The host asked about a decision toward the very end of the story, just as things got *really* bad. In my mind, about five earlier decisions would have drastically altered the drama of the story, if not prevented it entirely.

This is a deep-seeded belief of mine: If we were more thoughtful about our small decisions, we would have less trouble with our big decisions. I know it’s not always that simple, and myriad factors weigh on how we make even the smallest of decisions, but I’ve seen this pattern borne out time and again. It also helps me make sense of the line we see repeated in Matthew 25, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” We are called to be faithful with all that is in front of us, even the smallest of decisions. You and I both know that those small decisions can lead down long and winding roads.

So how do we do it? How do we fortify our decision-making processes to buffet against the consequences of “big decisions gone wrong”? Hopefully it comes as no surprise to you that I find

wisdom in both scripture and faithful tradition. I think that one of the primary answers to this question is found in meaningful sabbath. A true rest: time set aside for thoughtful connection to your Creator and those who can speak truth, challenge, and encouragement to your life. Setting aside this space for sabbath isn’t just about “taking a day off,” nor is it about restoring your energy levels, though each of those can be important. This space is about realigning who we have been created to be with how we are living our lives. So many of the decisions we make are misguided by fear, doubt, shame, and sin. We need regular space to disconnect from our selfish ambition and reconnect with the direction God is calling us. This goes for both small, menial, and mundane tasks as well as life-shifting efforts.

The decisions we make are important, and we’ve all likely had experiences that teach us the value of faithful and thoughtful action even in small ways. You’ve probably heard the phrase “A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” Well, the phrase is as accurate for healthy, vibrant pursuits as it is for toxic and misguided endeavors.

Take time to slow down this week. Take some meaningful sabbath to reengage with who God is calling you to be. What decisions have you made that you’re proud of? Are there any that you would take back? And of course, what decisions are coming up in your life, and how might you honor God’s Kingdom in those? I’d love to hear your story.

– Ed Sutter





GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

“Who is God?”

It seems we humans have been trying to figure out the answer to that question from the very beginning. In fact, it has been said that the purpose of all of scripture is to reveal God to us; in other words, to show us who God is.

Moses even asked God himself. God proclaimed his answer from the cloud on the mountain:

The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.

Exodus 34:6-7, NIV

So, I was curious. How would the children of Westminster answer? Who would they say God is?

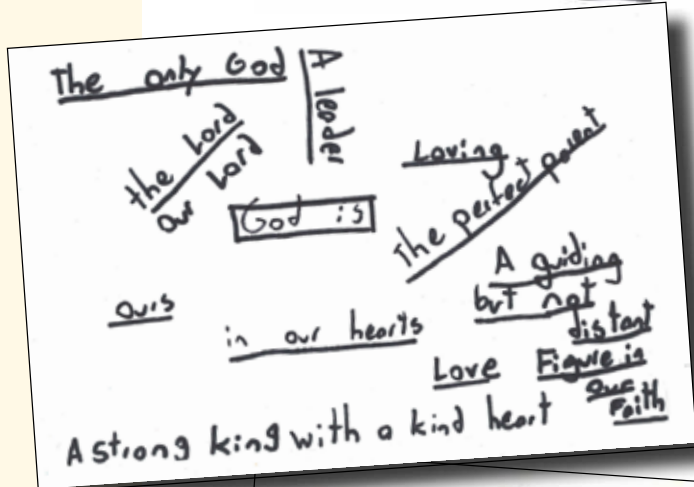
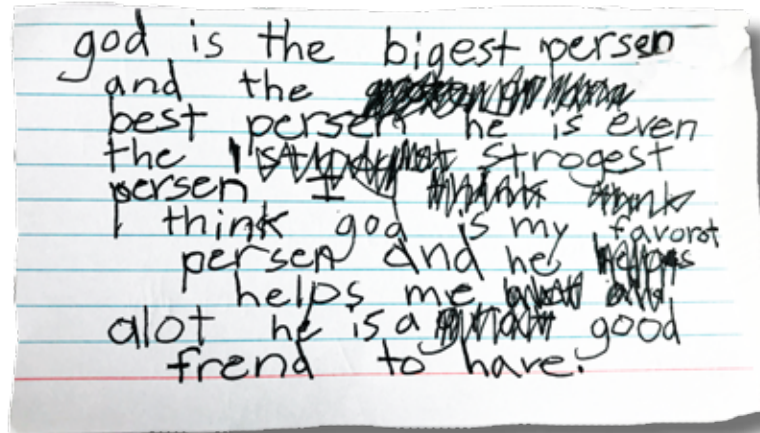
About 35 kids, ranging in age from 5 to 12 years old, wrote or drew their answers. They described God’s power and love. Many of them likened God to a parent – but a perfect parent. They recognized God’s hand in creation, and as the giver of all good things in our lives, even the giver of our very lives. They described feeling God’s presence, especially in difficult times. Quite a few described God as a protector, someone who helps keep them safe, and who provides people who also help keep them safe. They said God is brave, holy, true, caring, and great.

Perhaps in response to an anthem they learned recently in choir, a number of them wrote, “God is the Father, sun, and holy spirit.” Of course, we adults know that the words really were “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” But how interesting that their young minds made the connection between the “light of the world” and the greatest source of power and light that they can see and experience directly! And isn’t it true that we bigger people often feel God’s presence in sunshine, too?

Here are a few of the cards the kids wrote, so you can see for yourself what they had to say. The rest of their thoughts are on the bulletin board near the library and the children’s and family ministry offices. Please stop by and read their ideas.

And then let’s keep this going. What would *you* say? Who is God to you? Stop by our bulletin board and add your own thoughts. The kids and I would love to hear your ideas!

– Robin Pyles



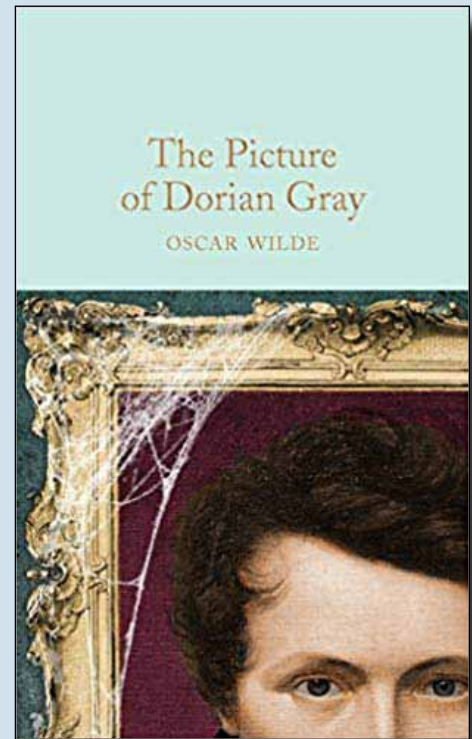
# Westminster Book Group

**Wednesday, April 24**  
**Noon – 1:15 p.m.**

The Westminster Book Group will meet on Wednesday, April 24, at noon in the Yahweh Café. We will discuss *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, a Victorian classic. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us.

“The Picture of Dorian Gray begins on a beautiful summer day in Victorian era England, where Lord Henry Wotton, an opinionated man, is observing the sensitive artist Basil Hallward painting the portrait of Dorian Gray, a handsome young man who is Basil's ultimate muse. While sitting for the painting, Dorian listens to Lord Henry espousing his hedonistic world view and begins to think that beauty is the only aspect of life worth pursuing, prompting Dorian to wish that his portrait would age instead of himself.”

– Wikipedia



## Holy Week Labyrinth Walk

During Holy Week, beginning Palm Sunday, April 14, through Easter Sunday, April 21, the 36-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 to the cross. 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 your reflections as you reenter your daily 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.



# Haiti News

## Westminster's 2019 Very Short Mission Trip

On February 8 we were treating ourselves to dinner at the airport in preparation for our gate call. After gathering construction materials, classroom supplies, gifts for the children, computers and other electronics, we were finally ready to go. Then Sandy's phone rang. And her face fell. And we knew that something was wrong. At that point we learned that our trip had been canceled, and that Haiti was in turmoil. People were being shot, cars were burning, and buildings were being destroyed in Port-au-Prince. Before long we received DO NOT TRAVEL notices from the U.S. State Department. Pastor Pierre, who was in La Croix at the time but needed to return to the U.S. for medical treatment, had to be taken 90 miles by helicopter to Port-au-Prince because Route 1, the only road from La Croix to the capital, was overrun with bandits forcing people from their cars at gunpoint.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and the people there are so desperate that they will use any means available to lift themselves up, even to the detriment of their neighbors. The current unrest has been focused on President Jovenel Moïse, whom many Haitians blame for excessive inflation and misuse of funds. *Carnival*, the celebration preceding Ash Wednesday, was canceled, lessening the opportunity for violence but hurting the Haitian economy. Life is complicated in Haiti and we pray for healing in the coming days. We continue to support the mission through sponsoring children and filling the library.

– Bobbie Hartman



### News about Child Sponsorship

The plan was to distribute rice and beans, cards, and \$5 cash that was generously donated to each of the 80 Westminster-sponsored children. Also tucked in each of their cards was a copy of their photo from last year. That was the plan...

Since our trip was canceled, Plan B is to send the money for rice and beans, and your cards with another reliable team leader. Pastor Pierre canceled the next two teams who were to visit La Croix in March. He is closely monitoring the situation, and will only allow teams to come if their safety can be assured. We may be able to send the gifts with a team traveling in April or May. For now, your money is redeposited at Westminster for safekeeping.



The cards and photos are still in their stacks awaiting the reinsertion of \$5 in each envelope.

La Croix New Testament Mission is a bright spot in a distressed country. Please pray that the students, their families, and the community of La Croix will be blessed to be a blessing in Haiti. Please also pray that each of us will know how God wants us to interact with the community in La Croix.

– Sandy Conley

### A Note about the Library

Thank you for the many generous monetary and book donations that have rolled in since we announced our trip to support the library at the mission in Haiti. Our bags were packed with 211 amazing books written in Kreyol, French, and English. Wordless picture books were included to help the children engage in the story and promote language and comprehension skills. And then we learned the trip was not to happen at this time.

Additionally, this winter we found a wonderful guide written by the Peace Corps about developing a library in situations and countries like the New Testament Mission of La Croix. It is full of practical, real life application. We have copies in English and in French and look forward to sharing it with the Haitian librarian in the future.

We trust God's faithfulness to restore Haiti to peacefulness and that the plan of our next trip will be revealed in due time.

– Jenny Gallo

# Spring 2019 Rummage-Recycling Sale

## Saturday, April 27

Regular sale: 8:00 a.m. – noon  
Closed for lunch: noon – 12:30 p.m.  
Bag and half-price sale: 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

### Collection Day Friday, April 26

8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Please donate only clean and usable items. Magazines, textbooks, large pieces of furniture, and broken or unusable items will not be accepted. Leftover goods will be donated to local mission and recycling efforts.

**We need your help on both Friday and Saturday.** Join the Collection Day Crew any time between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. for great fellowship, food, and shopping. **On Saturday we need at least 60 volunteers in the morning.** Each person will have a specific job. We also need donations of salads and desserts for the volunteers' lunches both days.

For questions or to volunteer, please call Marilyn Hayes at 412-831-5704 or Jan Baumann at 412-835-6630.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### MUSIC & ARTS SERIES

# Chatham Baroque at Westminster

## From Battles to Ballets

### Friday, April 5

### 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

This program of 17<sup>th</sup>-century music by Heinrich Biber, Philipp Jakob Rittler, Johann Heinrich Schmelzer deploys a veritable army of musicians. A band of two Baroque trumpets, nine strings, continuo, and percussion explores the exhilarating programmatic music of armed conflict known as *battalia*, in contrast with the beauty and charm of Baroque dance as portrayed in whimsical *balletti*.

Tickets, with discounts for seniors and students, are available online and at the door. For more information and ticket prices, visit [www.chathambaroque.org](http://www.chathambaroque.org) or call 412-687-1788. All ticket prices are \$5 more at the door.



*WROC Talk Presents*

# Vegetable Gardening

*Presented by Penn State Master Gardener Barbara Kline*

**Wednesday, April 10**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

*Free; registration necessary.*

Growing your own food is one of the most satisfying forms of gardening. In today's economy, many people are turning to their backyard vegetable plots to help lessen high grocery bills. Vegetable gardening provides the opportunity to select the varieties you like. It provides your family with fresh produce that is free from harmful pesticides. This class will cover the basics of planning your vegetable garden, preparing the soil, selecting plant and seed varieties (including hybrids and heirlooms), starting plants from seed, planting, tending your plants, troubleshooting problems, harvesting, extending the season, getting the most out of small plots, and putting the garden to bed for the winter.

*Barbara Kline owned and operated a five-acre organic farm for 12 years. She was one of the founders of Grow Pittsburgh and a past regional representative of PA WAgN, Women in Agriculture Network. She graduated from the Phipps Master Gardener program in 2002 and has been a Penn State Master Gardener since 2009.*

# Whole Food Plant-Based Nutrition Series

**Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15**

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

*Free; registration necessary.*

Join Mary Jo Costello, MPM, RDN, to learn the basics of plant-based diets, sorting fact from fiction as it relates to optimal nutrition.

May 1 – Reality Check, Basic Nutrition Education

May 8 – Health Risk Reduction through Nutrition

May 15 – Practical Application, What Do I Eat?

Nutrition science suggests that a plant-based diet may help to prevent or manage a number of important chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, certain cancers, and obesity. The diet may also help with overall physical and mental well-being.



MJ Costello believes that optimal health and well-being can result from our most important life skill, eating well. Her passion for teaching about nutrition comes from a lifelong pursuit of education, research, counseling, measuring, and observing the outcomes of nutrition on people's lives.

*Mary Jo holds a Master of Public Management, Carnegie Mellon University, and a Bachelor of Science in dietetics, Drexel University. MJ is a Registered Dietitian and holds a certificate in plant-based nutrition from eCornell. She is a Lieutenant Commander, United States Naval Reserve, and has diverse global experience as a Navy dietitian and food service officer for 22 years, including a six-month mobilization for Operation Desert Storm.*

# Deaths

**Carolyn Ochs**  
*February 21*

**Clark Nicklas**  
*February 23*

**Bob Keaney**  
*February 27*



# WECEP Playground Project to Begin in May

The Westminster Early Childhood Education Programs (WECEP) playground project is set to begin on May 20. This past fall, the board of directors, staff, and families of WECEP held a fundraising event to pay for updates to the playground and to make it ADA compliant. We thank everyone who attended, contributed, and sponsored the event along with the Nicklas family and the Rossin Foundation for their generous donations and grants. More updates and an invitation to our ribbon-cutting ceremony will be coming soon.



# Session Update

We look forward to Bruce Lancaster joining the church as interim senior pastor and head of staff on April 1, 2019.

During the financial update it was reported that the line of credit has been secured for the church. The Session was also notified that Upper St. Clair School District has deeded a small tract of land to the church. It is a part of the south parking lot.

Session members were invited to take part in A Quiet Practice for prayer during Lent.

# Save the Date Day Retreat Friday, June 21

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

## A Note of Thanks

My family and I would like to thank everyone at Westminster for your warm and generous farewell and gifts on the occasion of my retirement. I'm grateful for the time we've shared and look forward to hearing about good things to come from this vital, caring congregation.

Blessings always,

Jim Gilchrist



# Easter Flowers

Spring and Easter are coming!

The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial/honoree contributions for Easter flowers. Make your check **payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line** and mail to Peg Kinsey at the church office or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning with your form. Your contribution must be received by **Monday, April 8, 2019**, so your gift can be listed in the Easter bulletin.

Please indicate if you wish to pick up your flower following the 11:00 a.m. worship service or if you would like to have it delivered to a shut-in.

### EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

In memory       In honor

Name of memorial/honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver flower to a shut-in       I will pick up the flower

My name \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Peg Kinsey in the church office by **Monday, April 8.**





**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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“THE LORD HAS  
SWALLOWED UP  
DEATH FOREVER.  
BE GLAD AND  
REJOICE! GOD IS  
OUR SALVATION.”

– ISAIAH 25:7, 9

