



# THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

## The Pursuit of Happiness

According to *The Week* magazine, the most popular course at Yale these days is about how to be happy. Officially, it's Psych 157: Psychology and the Good Life, and it has more than 1,200 students enrolled.

The pursuit of happiness is nothing new, of course. Two thousand years before Jefferson called it an "unalienable right" in the Declaration of Independence, Aristotle said it was the goal of a good life. His Greek word *eudaimonia* is often translated "happiness," though it points to something much richer than momentary satisfaction. The word comes from roots meaning a "good spirit," and it has to do with cultivating habits of the heart that enable human beings to flourish.

Professor Laurie Santos, who teaches the course at Yale, says college students are "much more overwhelmed, much more stressed, much more anxious, and much more depressed than they've ever been." If that's true, it speaks to a basic theme of her syllabus, which is that just being smart, and getting into a great college, and working toward a successful, lucrative career will not necessarily make you happy.

The writer who interviewed Dr. Santos concludes that "Nearly everything you think will make you happier won't," if those things are circumstantial changes – more money, a new house or job,



a long vacation, etc. – as opposed to attitudinal adjustments. Psychological research is discovering what philosophers and religious leaders have known all along: that devotion to family and friends, nurturing gratitude and hopefulness, and savoring little pleasures in the present instead of lamenting the past or worrying about the future are the kinds of practices that make people truly happy.

Even secular philosophers and psychologists know these things, but Christianity brings another dimension to traditional wisdom. Jesus asks, "Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" and we know that anxiety can actually shorten life while siphoning off its joy. "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?" A deep and abiding trust in God is the foundation upon which people of faith build all those other psychological disciplines.

That's not a summons to indifference about the necessities of life – only a warning not to expect more from them than they can provide. Jesus shares his caution about worry right after he notes that God's main rival in this world is Mammon, who always promises more than he can deliver.

Mary Oliver, in a poem called "Storage," says, "As I grew older the things I cared about grew fewer, but were more important." She encourages us to make "More room in your heart for love, for the trees! For the birds who own nothing – the reason they can fly."

Everyone wants happiness. Jesus knows where to find it, and he would save us from searching in all the wrong places.

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

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### Traditional Worship

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

### The Bridge Contemporary Worship

 Sundays
 9:45 a.m.
 WROC

\* 8:30 a.m. worship moves back into the sanctuary beginning Sunday, September 9.

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

# Come and Worship the Lord!

*“Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God. We are gathered in worship to glorify the God who is present and active among us – particularly through the gifts of Word and Sacrament. We are sent out in service to glorify the same God who is present and active in the world.”*

Book of Order, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):  
Directory of Worship, W-1.0101

What powerful words to inspire us to look beyond ourselves toward our gracious God! September is a good month to renew our enthusiasm for worshipping God Sunday after Sunday, giving us a rhythm for life guided by the church's marking of time, which through the year celebrates events in salvation history and the life of Christ. Worship keeps us grounded and sustains us, week after week, season after season. The 2018 edition of the *Book of Common Worship*, the church's service book, puts the importance of worship this way:

Worship is at the very heart of the church's life. All that the church is and does is rooted in its worship. The community of faith, gathered in response to God's call, is formed in its worship. Worship is the principal influence that shapes our faith, and is the most visible way we express the faith. In worship, through Word and Sacrament, the church is sustained by the presence of Christ and empowered by the work of the Holy Spirit. Joined in worship to the One who is the source of its life, the church is equipped to serve God in the world.

Week after week, we are called to worship God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and then with God's help, to live in love and serve in joy. Thanks be to God!

### Upcoming Events

**05**  
SEP Wednesday  
activities  
resume

**09**  
SEP Education  
classes  
resume

**16**  
SEP Seraphic  
Singers  
Concert  
*in the sanctuary*

**21**  
SEP Chatham  
Baroque –  
Vivaldi's *Four  
Seasons*  
*in the sanctuary*

**23**  
SEP Blood Drive

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

*The Westminster Seminars begin a new season with a look inward to our spiritual lives and, in particular, prayer. The September series will help us become more open to God as we strive to live out the love of Christ. No preparation is necessary and all are welcome. Please join us!*

September 9, 16, 23, 30

## Open and Available: Approaching Life with God

L. Roger Owens, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

In our make-something-happen culture, we can often think about prayer and spirituality as something we do – a project to improve our lives, to get us closer to God. But what if prayer isn't about getting God to do what we want, but about becoming more open to the presence and action of God's grace in our lives? This series will offer an approach to prayer as becoming increasingly open and available to the work of God in our lives. It will also teach practical ways for this approach to become real in our actual lives.

*L. Roger Owens is associate professor of Christian spirituality and ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, and before moving to Pittsburgh five years ago served congregations in North Carolina. Roger teaches and writes about Christian spirituality, preaching, and the life of faith. His books include *Abba, Give Me a Word: The Path of Spiritual Direction* and *What We Need Is Here: Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality*. Roger is married to the Rev. Ginger Thomas, and they are the parents of Simeon, Silas, and Mary Clare.*



Photo credit: by Marksy [CC BY-SA 3.0], from Wikimedia Commons

# Christian Education and Formation for Adults

*Welcome to the ministry of Christian Education and Formation. With intentional learning and Christian formation, we become the people God calls us to be. Westminster Church has many opportunities for adult learning. Mark your calendars so you can take part.*

## FOUNDATIONS

Mondays, October 7, 14, 21, 28  
10:00 – 11:15 a.m. in Room 231  
Led by Louise Rogers

You are invited to come together for a time of exploring the basics of Christian beliefs. Together we will take a look at:

- How we can develop a stronger Christian faith that impacts our daily life.
- What teachings of the Bible are most important for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Deeper insights about faith through exploring key topics such as the Bible, God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Salvation.

This class is for everyone. Registration will begin in mid September. Hope you can join us.

## Upcoming Opportunity

### W2W

Women's Groups are beginning soon to allow for a time of engaging discussion, learning, and prayer. Watch the bulletin for times and dates for this enriching opportunity for all women of the church.

## Weekly Opportunities

### SUNDAYS

**Westminster Seminars** – Held in Galbreath Chapel at 9:45 a.m., the seminars cover a variety of topics on Christian living and mission, theology and history, culture and the arts, and of course the Bible. Join us to learn and grow in faith!

**Genesis Bible Study** – Meeting every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 131, the Genesis Class is for adults of all ages and interests. The class is committed to prayer, fellowship, and Bible study. Starting with light refreshments at 9:30, our class shares joys, concerns, and meaningful prayer time. Following this is a Bible-centered lesson and the opportunity for discussion. Whether you talk a lot or listen a lot, there's room in this class for you!

**Perspectives** – The class meets the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month in Room 238 at 9:45 a.m. Led by Jim Gilchrist, the sessions range from Bible study to matters of faith and everyday life. The group is for adults in their 30s and 40s. The format is largely interactive, and the subject matter is chosen by the group according to special needs and interests of those attending.

### TUESDAYS

**Men's Group** – Room 231, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Men, get up early and join Jim Gilchrist and Ed Sutter for coffee and donuts as we learn together the ways that God is guiding us as men of the church.

**Centering Prayer** – Room 231, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Led by Nana Wilson. Prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline which fosters that relationship. We learn a method of listening to and resting to this presence.

### WEDNESDAYS

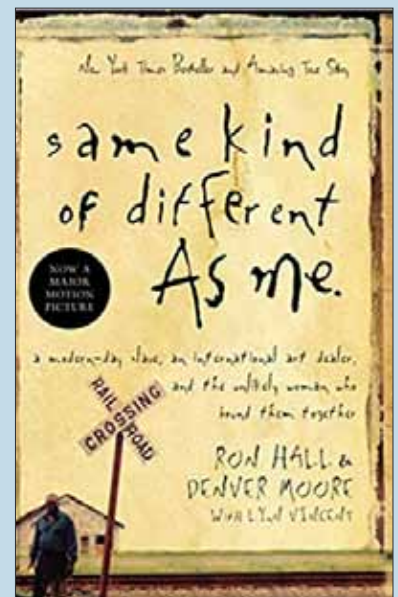
**Bible Study** – Room 231, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Led by Jim Gilchrist. Along with reading scripture, there is a time for raising questions and discussing how the scripture becomes the living word for us today.

## Westminster Book Group

Wednesday, September 26  
Noon – 1:15 p.m.  
Yahweh Café

The Westminster Book Group will meet on Wednesday, September 26, at noon in the Yahweh Café to discuss *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall. We invite you to bring a brown bag lunch and join us!

*'Same Kind of Different as Me is a tale told in two unique voices – Ron Hall & Denver Moore – weaving two completely different life experiences into one common journey where both men learn 'whether we is rich or poor or something in between, this earth ain't no final restin' place. So in a way, we is all homeless – just workin' our way toward home.' Gritty with pain and betrayal and brutality, this true story also shines with an unexpected, life-changing love.'*





## Fresh Starts

Welcome back, my friends!

Yes, I know that the calendar is typically measured from January to December, and that a new year begins on the stroke of midnight, January first, each and every year. But in my line of work, the year is also measured by the school calendar. The benefit of this is that I find myself in possession of not one, but two opportunities for new year's resolutions! Truth be told, this should be studied more closely. I seem much more likely to follow through on a resolution to exercise more when the temperature is in the 70s rather than hovering at the 0 mark. But I digress.

Around this time of year, just before the kids are all back in school and our office is flooded with teenagers and we play games that no sane human being would ever participate in let alone create, I start to wonder what my goals for the coming season will be. What is it that I want to accomplish with this youth group of ours? What is it that I want to accomplish personally? Which habits do I want to sustain? Which do I want to jettison?

For instance, I don't know if you know this, but we have a blog on our website. A blog is a term the internet created, and it is short for Web Log. I love blogging. I love writing and publishing and getting fresh content out there for the masses to see. And by masses, in this case, I mean all 12 people who read the blog with any kind of consistency. Or so I thought. For you see, when our lovely webmaster, Jeannie, and I were talking about the blog, perhaps wanting to eliminate it, we discovered that people are still in fact reading posts, even though we haven't published anything new since December of 2017. Even though we haven't been hip and with the current events, folks have found topics of interest there.

So I'm pleased to announce that we will get back to the blog, publishing material that I think will be helpful in your walk with Christ. We're starting over!

In a way, starting over is kind of the essence of Christian faith, is it not? God creates a big, beautiful, perfect world. And about five seconds after we arrive on the scene, we've made a mess of things. For that matter, we continue to make a mess of things on a near daily basis (or at least I do). And yet God keeps picking us up, dusting us off, and saying "let's try that again, shall we?"

And try we must. I don't know about you, but when I look around I see a world that is thirsty for hope. I see a world that is desperate for good news. I see a world that wants redemption stories. Through the gifting of Christ, we have the strength and the power to make the world new again, to start over, to be reborn. How great is that!

So really, you don't have to wait until the school year starts again. You don't have to wait until midnight on January first. You can start over now. Right now. This second. Those places in your life which are less than desirable? Christ can do something about those right now. Those people in your life who need to hear a word of hope? You can bring it to them. Those blogs that you've been meaning to write and just haven't had the energy or the patience? You can write those. That last one was for me, but I think we all have a place to start over, to start fresh, to taste and see that God means forgiveness when he offers it.

Time to start over, friends. Let's build something beautiful!

– Jason Freyer

## BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

This summer has been a whirlwind. My guess is that you've likely been in a similar boat at some point. I've noticed a conversational phenomenon that goes like this:

"Hey! How was your summer?"

"Fast."

It's a short exchange that I've heard over and over these past few months. There's something about summer that encourages us to pack our schedules to the gills. We cram our workdays in the weeks leading up to vacation, and then play catch up in the weeks that follow, and the desire to be with friends and family stretches out our procrastination just a touch more than usual. Whatever it may be, I wonder if you're like me; I spend a lot of time thinking about what's coming next and not thinking about what's right in front of me.

If you're like me, and find yourself looking ahead with some frequency, I'd encourage you to make a small shift that I've tried to take these past few weeks. I've started to view each day's responsibilities as my "mission field." God has called me to live in this day, to serve the people who are in front of me, and to be a messenger – in life and word – of the good news of the gospel. When I spend too much time thinking about next week, next month, or next semester, I lose track of what God has set down right in front of me. I miss opportunities for conversation. I stress out, lose focus, and become impatient – none of which are all that helpful when it comes to sharing joy, peace, and life with others.

There are practical implications to this as well. An increased focus on the mission field in front of me has given me a more sensitive eye to those around me, like my family. My family is a regular part of my daily mission field, and I am called to serve them with love, support, and presence. If my schedule is packed to the point of stress and anxiety, there's a good chance I'm spending a lot of time out of the house. Or at the very least I may be emotionally absent from those who are right in front of me. I'm not a very good messenger when I'm gone, and I might be even worse when I'm grumpy.

The other side of this coin reminds us that we must honor our commitments. We're called to be good stewards of each opportunity we are given in life, even the hard ones. Sometimes that means a kind word for a bothersome colleague, or that we must be a voice of calm in a tense meeting. We are called to be messengers in *every* situation, not just those of our choosing.

As we move from the busyness of summer into the busyness of fall, let's remember that we've been called to each of the places that our days take us. Take up the mantle of an everyday missionary. Make the choice to be a messenger of good news in all that you do. I'd love to hear your adventures along the way.

– Ed Sutter



**Make the  
choice to be  
a messenger  
of good news  
in all that  
you do.**

## GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

Working with kids is messy. And often it's noisy. Sometimes it's hard, requiring hours of preparation – and sometimes even more hours of cleanup. Sometimes, between the prep and the mess and the noise and the cleaning up, it can feel like you're not really accomplishing very much.

But then, every once in a while, when you least expect it, lightning strikes.

It was right in the middle of Westminster's vacation Bible school, Barefoot School. The 35 fifth and sixth graders were supposed to be on their much-anticipated mission trip, spending the morning at SHIM's day camp, getting to know some kids whose life stories are much different than their own. But, instead, an awful rainstorm (foreshadowing?) had canceled those plans and left their leader (me) scrambling to pull off an unplanned Bible lesson. It seemed the perfect setup for disaster of some sort.

The curriculum's lesson for the day? The story of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Okay. No time to gather props, assign parts for the drama, or cue the other volunteers. We'll just jump in.

I opted for a technique we often use with this age group, something we call a "spontaneous melodrama." Sort of a play – the narrator (again, me) – directs the action and feeds the lines to the actors. It gets everyone involved in the story and doesn't require rehearsals or much in the way of props.

So, there we were, clustered at the steps in the front of the sanctuary. I assigned a few roles and off we went.

We reached the part in the story where the Roman guards and crowd are in sort of a toe-to-toe stand-off with the disciples. That whole episode with the ear had just happened, when, on a whim, I froze the action. There we stood, opposing sides, face-to-face, everyone in their role – angry, ready to fight. "Right now," I asked, "what choices did Jesus have? What *could* Jesus have done?"

"Run away." "Disappear." "Tell the disciples to keep fighting." "Zap all the bad guys." (He *is* God, right?)

"Yes," I said, from my narrator's spot behind the "disciples." "He could have done any of those things. But here's what he did." I stepped through the line of the defenders. "Jesus walked *toward* the crowd. Toward the guards."

"Wait!" said one of the kids, with the dawning realization of the truth. "Jesus died *on purpose*?"

And there you have it: lightning.

I had goose bumps – and a giant lump in my throat. Thirty-five kids, four adults, complete silence. Then the same student continued, in a quiet, but certain, voice: "Jesus died for *me* – for *us* – on purpose."

Yup, those lightning moments are the ones that make it all worth it. Every minute of mess, and noise. Every time that plans are unexpectedly interrupted. Every bit of planning, preparation, and cleanup. Those are the moments that we get to see the Holy Spirit at work – when we get to see, right in front of our eyes, when a kid makes a giant leap in faith.

– Robin Pyles



By young shanahan from Amman, Jordan  
(The Garden of Gethsemane.), via Wikimedia Commons



# Sunday School at Westminster

Welcome to another exciting year to all of the children and their families! We look forward to partnering with you as we witness God's work in and with these children as they grow closer to Jesus in their daily walk.

We invite you to join us for Westminster's 2018-2019 Sunday school year, beginning on September 9, during either the 9:45 or 11:00 worship services.

This year, we will once again be implementing the Tru curriculum throughout the entire children's Sunday school program. Tru offers two different formats, so although the Bible passage is the same at both hours, the supporting activities are different.

Tru is a dynamic curriculum that tells God's Big Story in chronological order, offering relationship building activities that reinforce the story for each age group. Tru is written with the goal of engaging children so that they recognize their own part of God's Big Story.

Each week, your child will bring home a short newsletter, At Home, that will provide insight into that day's lesson, including a Bible verse for you and your child to discuss. It also provides a preview of the following week's lesson, along with activities that you can do at home. You can choose what sections you would like to do with your child(ren). We hope you will use At Home to partner with and support your child's Sunday school classes.

## Sign In/Sign Out Procedures (both hours)

When dropping off your child, sign in on the attendance clip board. If someone other than a parent will be picking up your child at dismissal, please inform the small group leader at dropoff.

## 9:45 Sunday school

Children may be dropped off in their classroom for a lesson from God's Big Story. They will explore the story through activities, music, worship, and skits/storytelling.

PreK – 4th Grade	Rm. 194
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## 11:00 Sunday school

Children will begin in their rooms with their leaders for small group activities that will introduce them to God's Big Story. They will then go to Room 107 to participate in worship, skits, singing, and dancing. The small group leaders will gather the children and return to their rooms for activities that reinforce the Big God Story that they heard in large group.

Children may be dropped off/picked up in these rooms:

2 and 3 year olds	Rm. 237
PreK	Rm. 136
Kindergarten	Rm. 138
1st & 2nd Grade	Rm. 127
3rd & 4th Grade	Rm. 121
5th & 6th Grade	Rm. 257

On the first Sunday of the month, children PreK through 6th grade will go directly to the sanctuary for worship at 11:00. After the Children's Moment, PreK through 1st grade may join their small group for Sunday school. Children 2nd through 6th grades may continue in worship with their families.

Second through fourth Sundays, and when there is a fifth, all children will go directly to their classrooms.

*Children's & Family Ministry volunteers and staff are so looking forward to seeing the children and families as we start the new Sunday school year. We hope you will become part of Sunday school and be with us as we join the children on their journey of faith. See everyone on Sunday, September 9!*

*– Debb Egli*



# Life in the Miles

by the Westminster Church Van



If you look around Westminster you'll probably notice lots of things with lots of meaning. There's the communion table, or the crosses, or even the artwork on each of the pews; it seems like everything means something around here! I may not measure up to that standard, but I still think I'm pretty cool. I started hanging out around here in 2017 after a previous life. Some folks say that I'm "used," but that's just hurtful! I see myself as a reborn unit of God. I had a great summer, and I'm proud of what I've been up to. I think God used me for some awesome stuff. Check it out!

The summer began on a long drive to Columbus, Indiana. I took Jason, Laura, and eight middle school and high school students to do a long weekend's worth of mission work for the local community. Once I got there, I also ended up driving students from all over the country! I was glad to meet so many new friends. Speaking of new friends, I got to meet some of the teens from First United Presbyterian Church in Tarentum! It was great to be able to take them on their mission trip, too. I never thought I'd get to meet so many people who are doing so many good things!

My life's not all hard work, though. The youth program here at Westminster did an amazing event this summer called "Charlie." I got to go to Sandcastle, Kennywood, and work with SHIM. So many teens signed up for these events that I had to bring some of my other car friends to help out. The guys made me sit in the parking lot for most of the New Wilmington Mission Conference, but I was happy to be there and hear the stories from our teens who got to meet people who are serving God all over the world!

In early July I helped SHIM transport refugee youth to the PRYSE Academy, a three-week summer camp held in the West End. PRYSE (Pittsburgh Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment) Academy is a summer camp that includes English and academic skill-building, creative expression workshops, field trips, and is aimed at shaping refugee youth into engaged and successful members of the Pittsburgh area. There was lively conversation driving to the camp by 9:00 a.m., and time to sleep or chill on the way back after 4:00 p.m. Lar Pa, Bigyun, Aung Myint, Florence, Faustin, Annon, Roman, and Bebek were able to attend through SHIM's arrangements for their free tuition and my rides on nine days, when SHIM's vans were being used for their summer camp.

Phew. It's been a busy summer and I've put on a lot of miles, but that's a good thing. There's life in every one of those miles!

## Deacons' 2018 Giving Gala Benefits Open Door

**Saturday, November 3**  
St. Clair Country Club

On Saturday, November 3, the Deacons of Westminster will sponsor their annual Giving Gala. This year the proceeds will benefit Open Door, an organization that has many high-quality programs to serve disadvantaged youth in Crafton Heights. Open Door provides After School Assistance, Friday Night Recreation, Cross Trainers' Summer Camp, and a special Runners' Club.

The Gala will commence with dinner at St. Clair Country Club, followed by a live auction and spectacular basket raffle. Tickets for both the event and basket raffle will be sold beginning the first Sunday in October. If you can't attend, other giving opportunities exist in the form of corporate sponsorships and individual donations.

We've found this to be a special evening of fun and fellowship while addressing the needs of our neighbors. So please mark your calendars and plan to join us. For questions please call Andrée Jeffrey, 412-831-7839, or Hedy Pitcairn, 412-831-7126, chairpersons; Randy Langlois 724-941-4840, corporate sponsorships; or Lois Franks, 412-466-3533, baskets.

*Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand, to the poor and the needy neighbors in your land."*

*Deuteronomy 15:11*

MUSIC & ARTS SERIES



# Seraphic Singers

**Sunday, September 16**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Sanctuary**

Don't miss the stunning sounds of Seraphic Singers, an ensemble of 12 professional female vocalists, as they return to Westminster on Sunday, September 16, at 3:00 p.m.

Founded and conducted by Gretchen Franz, Seraphic Singers perform a rich variety of the finest secular and sacred music composed and arranged for women's voices. The singers are choral directors, music teachers, pianists, a financial planner, and a psychologist – all with a passion for singing great music.

This exciting performance will include a jazzy piece by German composer Simon Wawer, composed for the six-voice women's ensemble from Leipzig, *Sjaella*, a beautiful duet from Delibes' *Lakme*, *The Call of the Flowers*, and the moving *Sing Me to Heaven*, with lyrics by Jane Griner and music by her husband, Daniel E. Gawthrop.

Also on the program, a classic choral work by Randall Thompson, *Choose Something Like a Star* – an amusing dialogue between a city mouse and a country mouse – old standards *Blue Skies* and *When I Fall in Love*, folksongs including *Scarborough Fair*, and contemporary composer Eric Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs* accompanied by piano, violin, and percussion.

Come and enjoy this premier Pittsburgh vocal ensemble. It's a treat not to be missed! Admission is free; a freewill offering will support future programming.

# Chatham Baroque at Westminster

*Vivaldi's Four Seasons*

**Friday, September 21**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Sanctuary**

In their 28th season, Chatham Baroque at last presents Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* – one of the most globally popular and beloved works from the Baroque. Accompanied by the original poetry, these iconic works vividly paint diverse scenes of country life in all sorts of inclement weather with wondrous virtuosity and technical wizardry.

With guests Cynthia Black, Alice Culin-Ellison (violins); Kristen Linfante (viola); J. Tracy Mortimore (double bass); and Justin Wallace (harpsichord).



The concert will be held in Westminster's sanctuary, where the glorious sound of eight musicians will soar in the beautiful acoustics of the space. This is an ideal opportunity to both introduce friends to our church and to enjoy a very special evening of music.

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.

# Town Hall South 2018-19 Season Begins October 2

## TOWN HALL SOUTH

Memberships are still available for the 2018-19 anniversary season. Register online or by mail.

**10:10 a.m.**

(doors open at 9:30)

**Upper St. Clair High School Theater**

Town Hall South is an outreach program of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Town Hall South is now in its 50th season. (1969-2018)

[www.townhallsouth.org](http://www.townhallsouth.org)



**Jon Meacham**

October 2, 2018

Presidential historian, Pulitzer Prize winning author, and contributor to *Time* and *The New York Times Book Review*, Jon Meacham is one of America's most prominent public intellectuals. A regular guest on *Morning Joe*, he is known as a skilled raconteur with a depth of knowledge about politics, religion, and current affairs. He understands how issues and events impact our lives and why historical context matters. Meacham's latest Presidential biography, *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*, debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestselling list in November of 2015. Meacham received the Pulitzer Prize for *American Lion*, his bestselling 2008 biography of Andrew Jackson. As a contributing editor to *Time*, Meacham writes for the magazine's Ideas section.



**Francine Segan**

December 4, 2018

One of America's foremost experts on Italian cuisine, Francine Segan is an engaging public speaker, author, and TV personality. She is a noted food historian and a James Beard nominated author of six books including *Dolci: Italy's Sweets*

and *Pasta Modern*. Segan is the host of NYC's popular weekly TV series *Americans Who Love Italy* and appears on many other TV shows, including the *Today Show* and *Early Show*. She has been featured on numerous specials for PBS, Food Network, History, Sundance, and Discovery channels. Having collaborated with many regions of Italy to promote Italian food, culture, and wine in the States, Segan is the American spokesperson for several distinguished Italian companies. She has also been a food judge for the Fancy Food Show, Bacardi Cocktail competition, and the International Pesto competition.



**Lara Logan**

February 5, 2019

Bold, award-winning reporting has earned Lara Logan a prominent spot among the world's best foreign correspondents. She was named CBS News Chief Foreign Correspondent in February 2006, and Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent in 2008, all while contributing to *60 Minutes*. In 2012, Logan was named a full time correspondent for this newsmagazine. Her recent reports for *60 Minutes* include the operation to take back Mosul from ISIS, a story of little known victims of the Holocaust, and another story that reported on the similarities between ISIS genocide tactics and those of Hitler's Final Solution. Her work has taken her from the front lines of the Ebola crisis to the forests of central Africa where she did a story on veterinarians treating endangered mountain gorillas in the wild, to Hollywood where she recently profiled one of rock 'n roll's most prolific photographers.

# TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!



**Adam Steltzner**  
November 6, 2018

From aspiring rock star going nowhere fast to a history making Ph.D. rocket scientist, Adam Steltzner is recognized as one of NASA's leading and most unique

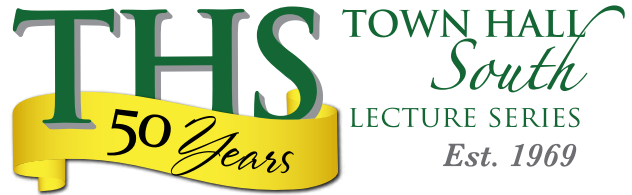
innovators. For nearly a decade, he has led and inspired the breakthrough team that invented the ingenious "sky crane" landing system that so spectacularly landed the Mars rover "Curiosity" on the Martian surface in 2012. Next, Steltzner will lead NASA's Mars 2020 Project that will gather core samples of Mars for scientific discovery. In his book, *The Right Kind of Crazy: A True Story of Teamwork, Leadership and High Stakes Innovation*, Steltzner brings to life unique strategies and perspectives on breaking through the seemingly impossible.



**David Eagleman**  
March 5, 2019

David Eagleman is a daring young scientist who provides a new understanding of our brains and ourselves. As a speaker, this Guggenheim Fellow and *New York Times* bestselling author is

energizing, edifying, and able to connect scientific discovery to any field. He deals with everything from how the brain rewires itself to why science and art must learn from each other. In his spectacular PBS series, *The Brain*, he provides viewers with a deeper understanding of themselves, the unseen world of decisions, and of modern neuroscience. His influential neuroscience books include the *New York Times* bestseller *Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain*, and *Wednesday Is Indigo Blue: Discovering the Brain of Synesthesia*.



## 2018 - 2019

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*\$165 non-refundable. Sold as series only.*

Please list the names, addresses, and phone numbers of ALL persons for whom tickets are being purchased. If additional space is required OR if you would like brochures mailed to others, continue on a separate sheet.

**COMPLETE WITH BALLPOINT PEN**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Memberships @ \$165 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my tax deductible contribution to Town Hall South: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check payable to:

**Town Hall South**  
**2040 Washington Road**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15241-1599**

Online registration with credit card. \$165 plus processing fee. For online registration visit [www.townhallsouth.org](http://www.townhallsouth.org).

# Fall Happenings at the WROC

## Delay The Disease™

*The #1 Exercise Program for Fighting Parkinson's Disease*

Ohio Health Delay the Disease™ is a fitness program designed to empower people with Parkinson's disease (PD) by targeting their symptoms and optimizing their physical function. This Parkinson's specific fitness program is designed to proactively minimize tremors and improve flexibility, stability, balance, and strength. The empowering results of our Delay the Disease exercise program can help participants:

- Move about with ease and confidence in a crowd
- Get out of bed or rise from a chair independently
- Improve handwriting
- Dress independently
- Diminish worry that stiffness, slow steps, and other symptoms
- Regain a sense of moving with normality

**Tuesdays, September 11 – October 30**  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40

OR

**Thursdays, September 13 – November 1**  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

*Dave Ramsey's*

## Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University is designed to teach you and your family how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and build wealth. You'll meet with your class each week to watch the video lesson and participate in discussion and accountability groups that will change your whole attitude about money.

This nine-week video curriculum is taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey. Small group discussion will be led by church members David and Daryl Kerr.

**Thursdays, September 14 – November 9**  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Room 238

Cost: \$109 (includes Financial Peace Membership Kit)



## First Place 4 Health

*A Weight-Loss Program and So Much More!*

See how putting God first can lead to successful weight loss. Learn about how God calls Christians to be physically fit. Understand the positive effects good nutrition and exercise have on your emotions and spirit.

**Free Orientation Meeting (required for new members.)**

**Monday, September 17**

10:30 a.m.

Room 231

**12-Week Session**

**Thursdays, October 4 – December 6**

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Parlor

**Instructors: Deborah Waller and Marianne Trachok**

**Cost: \$20 (includes *Walking by Faith* study book)**

*Additional Resources:*

*Member's Guide – Required, but not provided; please search online for a new or used book.*

*Member's Kit – Optional; includes above Member's Guide.*

## Pole Walking

Imagine transforming a casual walk into a gentle, fabulous, fun filled, whole body workout that engages 90% of your major muscle groups! The classes are taught in four one-hour sessions that include conditioning exercises, walking drills, pole technique, and outdoor adventure and cool down stretch. Join instructor Anne Brucker, MEd, as she shares her 40 years of fitness skills to bring you a delightful new experience in a walking workout.

**Wednesdays, September 19 – October 10**

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Cost: \$20

*Enroll now for WROC fall classes at [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org)*

# Shifting from Member to Staff

My name is Mandy Thomas and I want to introduce myself and explain a bit about my new role as project manager on staff here at Westminster.

My husband Ian and I, along with our two daughters Rachel (12) and Madeleine (9), live in Upper St. Clair. We moved to Pittsburgh in 2010 when my company relocated us from Houston, Texas, and we enrolled our girls at Westminster in the Child Development Center. I am originally from Cleveland and Ian is from Great Britain, so when given the chance to move to the northeast we jumped at the opportunity to be nearer to family. We joined Westminster in 2012 and have gotten involved in myriad activities. I personally have been honored to serve as both a deacon and an elder, have coordinated extended communion, made prayer shawls with Knit in His Spirit, regularly attended Faith in Life, chaired the Communications Commission, served on the Children's and Family Commission, set up the Bridge, volunteered at World Vision, and much more.

Professionally, both Ian and I have worked in the oil and gas industry. I spent 20 years with Schlumberger in software, project management, sales, and general management roles. My career was good but I was restless. I had earned a master's degree in project management in the fall of 2014 and wanted to get out of sales, but there were no openings in the Schlumberger Pittsburgh office for that type of role, and I felt a real calling to help people in a more concrete way.

In December 2017, Jim Gilchrist posted a job opening for a "project coordinator." It's a part-time role, developing and documenting policies and procedures, but also coordinating some special projects like the Forward in Faith campaign, and researching topics like responses to emergency situations. It turns out this big, vibrant, thriving church has a lot of operational aspects that a business background can help coordinate.

So this new role, project manager, was born, and I am delighted now to work on projects that can really help people. In this 20-hour-per-week role I am developing emergency response procedures, working on a long-awaited policy and procedure manual, developing a Safe Church policy, and considering building security.

I welcome you to stop by and talk about ideas you may have for the church. We developed a project intake form to capture requests for projects at Westminster, and a few people have brought forward ideas. Ultimately Jim directs my focus and energies, and I am excited to see where the role develops.

Listening to God's call to leave a comfortable job and come on board here has been a major change in my life, but one that I know is right and true, and I look forward to getting to know many Westminster people better in my new capacity.



## Mandy Thomas

Office:  
412-835-6630X206

Cell:  
281-796-8068

Email:  
[thomas@westminster-church.org](mailto:thomas@westminster-church.org)



Appearances can be deceiving.

I often ask people how they came to be connected at Westminster Church. Many people tell me that when they first came to the South Hills of Pittsburgh they drove by Westminster Church many times thinking, “I will never go to church there. That congregation is too big, too impersonal. It must be hard to meet people there.” Finally, for some reason – perhaps convenience, a personal invitation, or their grandchildren singing in the choir during worship – they venture inside the large building.

What they discover is a large, beautiful building filled with welcoming, caring people. Outside appearances can be misleading. Personal connections are made as individuals greet one another, worship together, and begin to open up about the happenings of their lives. Following the example of Jesus, people seek to care for one another in love. Like an optical illusion, we think we will see things one way. But as we look closely, another image emerges. Everyone has an opportunity to take part.

Coming to church gives each one of us a place to be active in the body of Christ. As Deborah Hunsinger says in *Pray without Ceasing*, “The spiritual fellowship to which we are called invites us into intimate communion (koinonia) with God and one another. Each of us is called to listen and care for one another.” A special joy can be found as we connect personally with one another.

Our challenge is to keep looking around to see where we might extend a word of welcome or invitation to someone else. Each Sunday people are here at church hoping for and needing a kind word. In the past year I have seen firsthand the warmth of this congregation as individuals have welcomed me and my family into the church. Our journey continues. Our doors are open wide as we excel in welcoming and caring for others.

With joy,  
Louise Rogers

*“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”*

*2 Corinthians 13:11*

# Blood Drive

**September 23**  
**8 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

The Deacons thank you for your continuing support in the worthy mission of donating blood. In order to donate, you must:

- Be 17 years or older (16 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 Central Blood Bank’s Medical Help Line at 412-209-7160.

For your convenience and to help the Central Blood Bank to plan for this drive, we ask all prospective donors to pre-register in one of the following ways:

- Online at [www.centralbloodbank.org](http://www.centralbloodbank.org), using sponsor code G0010171
- Sign-up tables before or after worship services on September 9 and September 16
- Contact the church office at 412-835-6630
- Walk-ins are always welcome

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

The Westminster Deacons thank you in advance for your support of this worthy mission.



# Welcome New Members

*On May 27, Westminster welcomed the following new members:*

**Amber Dressel**



**Leigh & Jim Rizzo**



**Amanda & Mike Spinella**



**Carrie & Michael Fisher**



**Nicole & Josh Silvis**



**Millie & Al Stricker**

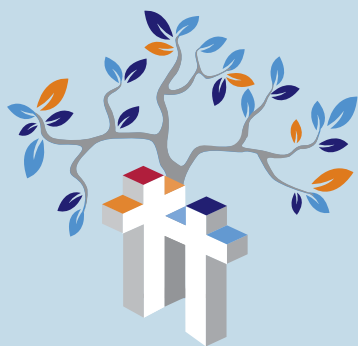


# Forward in Faith

In this house, beyond this house, and for the future, the Forward in Faith campaign, launched in April 2018, has more than \$2.52 million in pledges! From the first dollar received, 80% is earmarked for property renovations and repairs and 10% go each to mission and the endowment. Through sermons, *Spire* articles, a church-wide dinner, a dedicated website, brochures, and a series of videos, the importance of Gratitude, Mission, and Legacy were communicated to the congregation. Chairpersons Linda and Harry Serene and Deborah and Mike Lee led the charge backed by a staff team preparing materials and communications.

Now our focus turns to implementing improvements in the building and planning mission projects. The Property Commission is working to determine project priority, and we will be collecting bids for work starting in the fall. The Outreach Commission has made some decisions on funding local and international missions. Stay tuned for further communications as projects both in this house and beyond this house get underway. Be thinking about the projects you would like to pursue and prepare your endowment grant applications for February 2019.

We continue to welcome pledges to Forward in Faith. Pledge cards can be found in the narthex, north entry, gallery, and on the back table of the Bridge. We have collected over \$650,000 in donations as funds begin to flow. It is such a joy to share our gifts freely and show our thanks to God by moving forward in faith together. Westminster continues to thrive, growing from the firm vision of Faith, Commitment, and Outreach. Please contact Mandy Thomas if you have any questions. Let's keep moving Forward in Faith together!



FORWARD IN FAITH

# Scheduling at WPC

## Attention All Group and Commission Leaders

The fall kickoff of meetings and events is just around the corner. All group and commission leaders are asked to review the following scheduling guidelines before planning meetings and/or events:

### Scheduling Guidelines

**ALL** requests for the use of church facilities must be directed to the office of Peg Kinsey (412-835-6630x211). Requests for a meeting room or use of the facility must be received no later than two weeks prior to the requested date of the meeting or event. Questions or special interpretations may be referred to Peg.

### Events Scheduling Expectations

- In order to ensure that all requests for a room or facility can be filled, requests must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the function.
- Requests for reserving a room for a meeting must be submitted to Peg. Events such as dinners, concerts, etc., should be channeled through and approved by the group's assigned staff person before contacting Peg to schedule. Example: Mission dinners should filter through the chair of the Outreach Commission.
- As a courtesy to others, only the rooms, equipment, and specified times on the request may be used by the group.
- In an effort to create a positive environment for all meeting or event participants, Peg Kinsey should be notified of any changes, including the following: equipment changes, meeting cancellations, the need to change rooms, changes in meeting start and/or end times.
- Participants should not change meeting rooms without contacting Peg to ensure no other group will be displaced.
- Audio visual equipment should not be taken from other rooms as it may be reserved for another group.
- At the conclusion of a meeting or event, audio and/or visual equipment should be left in the meeting room to ensure it is returned to the storage area so that the next group will have its requested equipment.

### Care of Facilities

- If it becomes necessary to change the position of furniture in the meeting room, a custodian must be contacted. Please do not rearrange the furniture. A walkie-talkie is located in the mailroom.
- Do not adjust thermostats. If it becomes necessary to adjust any thermostats, please contact one of the custodians or a staff member.
- The group using the space is responsible for closing windows following use and for disposing of trash and garbage in the trash container. Any beverage spills on the carpet must be reported to the custodians promptly.
- Groups must vacate the church by 10:00 p.m. unless special arrangements have been made.
- Posters, decorations, and any other displays are permitted only with permission and will be completely removed at the close of the event. Posting of anything on the walls is prohibited.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# Financial Report *As of July 31, 2018*



## General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2018	\$1,148,256.32
Annual Budget	\$1,995,579.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$847,322.68

## Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$1,333,946.88
Expenses	\$1,332,155.55
Net Position	\$1,791.33

We thank you for your wonderful support through the first seven months, and we are pleased to report that we have not had to rely on any outside lending sources to fulfill our internal and external commitments. However, as you can see above, we still have approximately 42.5% of our 2018 budget yet to be fulfilled.

As vacations and time away from home have been more prevalent in the summer, we ask that you remember that Westminster has internal commitments to staff, programs, and building costs, as well as local and global mission commitments. If you are current or ahead on your 2018 pledge, thank you for your continuing support. If you are behind on your 2018 pledge, please consider catching up and fulfilling your pledge, so that we can continue to meet our commitments. Thank you.



## Deaths

**Daniel J. Smith Jr.**

*June 2*

**Dick Haddad**

*June 9*

**Jack Livingston**

*June 29*

**Carl Lindstrom**

*July 10*

**Frank Noll**

*August 3*

**William "Woody"  
Gilleland**

*August 21*



**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2040 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)  
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[www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh](http://www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh)



[www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC](http://www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC)

**“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”**

**Ephesians 4: 31-32**

