



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

On Being Thankful

I always begin my prayers with thanksgiving. It's become a habit now, but habits are important. What we habitually do or fail to do shapes who we are. Over time, patterns of thought and action become "characteristic" of us – that is, they form our character.

When we think of different people, we think of their most conspicuous characteristics. Some people laugh a lot, others tend to be grumpy. Some are good listeners, others talk nonstop. A few people are magnanimous, great souls – they make us feel bigger and better just by being around them. A few are so wrapped up in themselves that we feel compressed and suffocated in their presence, as if we need a breath of fresh air to recover after we've been with them.

I read long ago that when we pray we should begin with praise and thanksgiving, rather than jumping directly to whatever we want from God. At a minimum, it's more polite. Beyond that, the author said we owe God thanks and praise, and we ought to fulfill our obligations before we ask for any favors.

That's true enough, but there is another great benefit to starting our prayers with thanksgiving. As we think of things to be thankful for, we come to realize that, fundamentally, all good things in life, and



life itself, are gifts from God. Once we see how we are awash in gifts, we become more grateful, and gratitude feels good. It feels much better than the anxiety that drives so many of our prayers ("O God, please ..."), and it feels infinitely better than the pride that keeps us from praying at all.

My experience is that, by the time I've spent even a minute being grateful, I'm less anxious and more confident that the One who has already been so good will probably be good to us again. Goodness and grace and generosity are characteristic of God. The more time I spend in thanksgiving, the better I know God; and the better I know God, the more confidence I have in praying.

I knew a wise old minister who, when I would ask how he was doing, always smiled and said, "I'm grateful." That was especially compelling because he couldn't

get around very well by the time I knew him, his wife had died, and he was losing his eyesight. But you could tell that his gratitude ran deep. It flowed from a heart shaped by a lifetime of thanksgiving, and the fruit of his gratitude was a fundamental peace.

When the Bible says, "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good," it means much more than a commandment, a creaturely obligation to the Almighty. It means that thanksgiving is a way of knowing God, because God is the source of all good things. It also means that giving thanks is a key to happiness. Grateful people become contented over time, and more generous. The deeper their gratitude, it seems, the deeper their joy.

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 REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor*
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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

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Traditional Worship

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🕒	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
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📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

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

Celebrating the Reign of Christ

The Christian year ends on November 26 in celebration. We give thanks and praise to Christ, the sovereign Lord of all creation who will come again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1: 4-8). We call this special Sunday Christ the King – or more precisely, the Reign of Christ – uniting Christians throughout the world in proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord. On this jubilant day, we are at the threshold of the season of Advent, when we hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time.

The *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 151) explains the magnitude and uplifting message of celebrating the reign of Christ our King:

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" In every generation, demagogues emerge to claim an allegiance that belongs only to God. But Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witness to this truth.

Behold the glory of the eternal Christ! From the beginning of time to its ending, Christ rules above all earthly powers!

*He is King of kings; he is Lord of lords, Jesus Christ, the first and last, no one works like him.
He built his throne up in the air; and called his saints from everywhere;
He pitched his tents on Canaan ground; and broke oppressive kingdoms down;
I know that my Redeemer lives; and by his love sweet blessing gives;
No one works like him.*



– African American Spiritual

Upcoming Events

5
NOV All Saints' Sunday

10
NOV Chatham Baroque at Westminster

11
NOV Rummage-Recycling Sale

12
NOV Stewardship Commitment Sunday

22
NOV Thanksgiving Eve Service

26
NOV Christ the King Sunday

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

November 5, 12, 19, 26

A River of Many Streams

Jack Aupperle

This series will pursue four streams which became a part of and greatly influenced the flow of Christian thought in the 20th century. The ideas will be pursued in the life and work of four leading voices of the 20th century. While these four threads will be developed and explored as integral parts of the faith's fabric, the series will not be limited to these perspectives. Questions and concerns growing from the group will serve as a basis for meaningful discussion. Please join the discussion!

**November 5 –
Liberalism: The Kingdom Is at Hand**

**November 12 –
A New Evangelicalism:
Belief and Inspiration Have
Intellectual Credibility**

**November 19 –
A Black Voice of Conformation
and Compromise**

**November 26 –
An Ecumenical Catholic View
of Women**

Jack Aupperle, a Pittsburgh native and Methodist minister, is a graduate of Bethany College and Drew University. He served parishes in New York and Western Pennsylvania and for over 30 years has been on the faculty of St. Vincent College, where he teaches a variety of classes in the Theology Department. Dr. Aupperle has presented many seminar series at Westminster. It is always a joy to welcome him back.



Give Thanks

I'll be perfectly honest with you: I got lazy when it came to this month's topic. I planned ahead for a bunch of my *Spire* articles so that I could coordinate with the blog, and I just kind of figured that in November we'd talk about giving thanks. After all, I think this is the month that we get together for turkey or something, and someone at the table will pray about what we are thankful for this year. So an article about giving thanks seemed to make sense, right?

But as the world has unfolded around us lately, as hurricanes have battered our shores and devastated our citizens, as yet another mass shooting has rattled our national sensibilities, I think a little bit of thankfulness could be the key to where we are right now as a nation. I think it might be a cure for the pain, a light in the darkness. And I think it happens to have something to do with communion. Let me explain:

The word in Greek for thanksgiving is *eucharisami*, which is where we get our word *Eucharist*. It's possibly in reference to Jesus' action in giving thanks before breaking the bread and pouring the wine. It could also be a hint at how thankful his followers have been for centuries to be able to partake in the divine feast. Or perhaps there's something deeper here, a lasting connection between what Jesus does in the Last Supper and our thankfulness.

Pay close attention to the words that Jesus speaks when he is instituting the Last Supper. **Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

What exactly is the "this" we are doing in remembrance of Christ? Is it simply breaking the bread? Is it the celebration of the meal? Is it the fellowship around the table? Or is it possible that Jesus is in fact inviting us to join him in giving up our body, pouring out our blood, in remembrance of him? Is it that Jesus is inviting us to a new kind of thanksgiving, one that recognizes what God has done for us and invites us to put a little skin in the game.

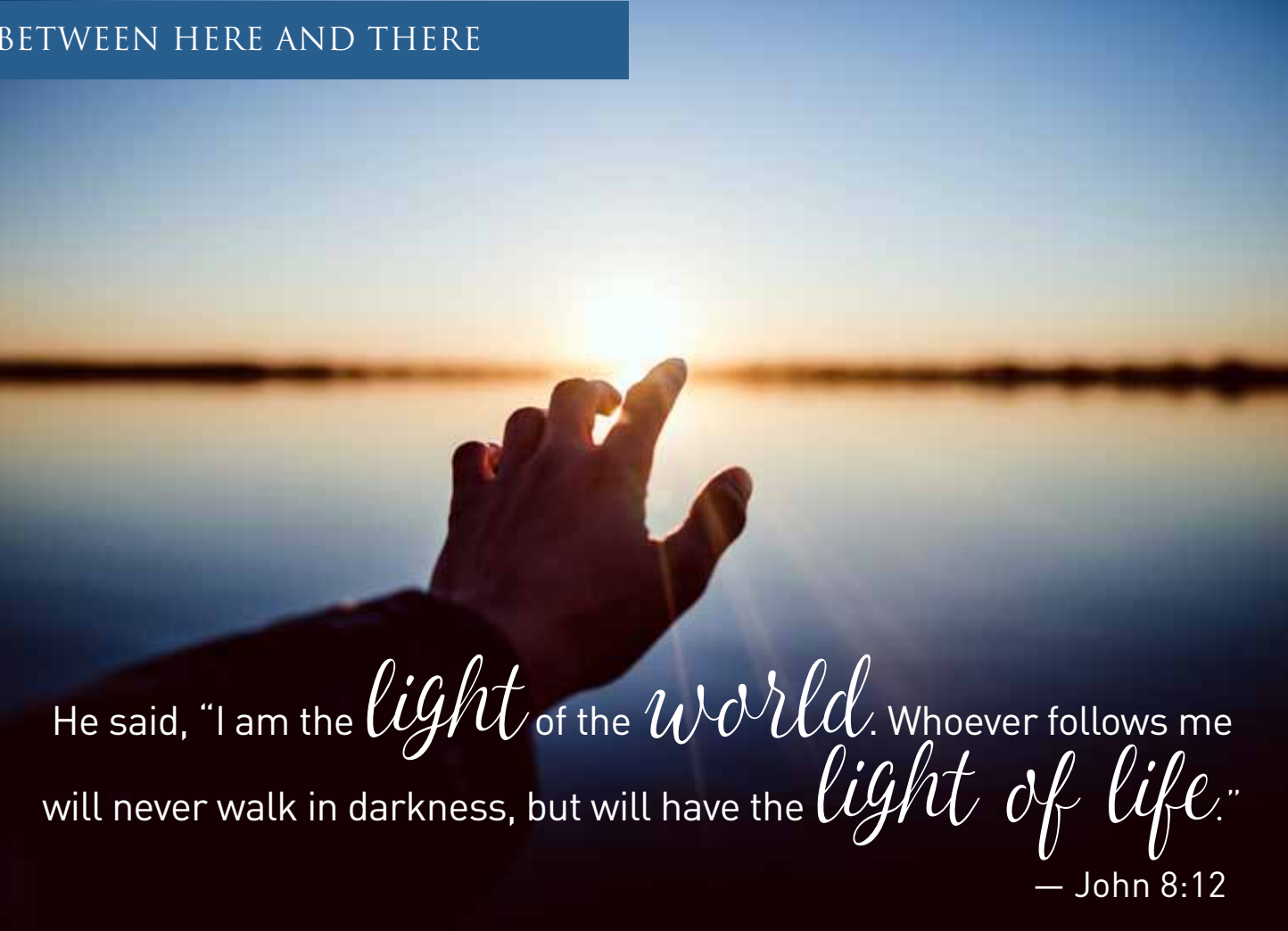
In the aftermath of all of these storms and tragedies and national situations, the phrase "our thoughts and prayers go out to..." shows up again and again. There's nothing wrong with thoughts and prayers being sent in the direction of the victims, of the disenfranchised, or of the poorest among us. But I think if I understand Jesus correctly, that kind of prayer should be followed with an embodied thanksgiving, where we put flesh and blood behind our prayers and show up for people, doing it all in remembrance of him. In our world right now, the light we are most hungry for is the light that Jesus has called you and me to bring to the world (Matthew 5:14-16).

So for sure, give thanks. Gather with friends and family around the table. Enjoy the turkey, the cranberry sauce, and the stuffing. Pray a multitude of prayers of thanksgiving. Pray for those who aren't quite as fortunate as we are. But then I invite you to take the next step. Embody the prayers. Take your leftovers to someone you know is hungry. Give of your abundance to those who have nothing. Show up with a hammer and nails to put back the pieces of a broken world. Let us be the kind of community that gives thanks not just with our voices, but with our flesh and blood. Let us give of ourselves in remembrance of Christ.

Let us give thanks.

– Jason Freyer





He said, "I am the *light* of the *world*. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the *light of life*."
— John 8:12

I have a habit of scrolling through the news headlines each morning, and as the page is loading I generally think something like, "Well, let's see what happened last night." Darkness isn't hard to find these days. Conflict, both internal and external, pours out onto our streets and into our homes on a daily basis. Headlines of devastation, both natural and manmade, have become commonplace. We've become so encamped in our methods of thinking that we scoff at the notion that any respectable person could possibly think otherwise. We hide from, ignore, and keep behind closed doors all of our own demons, but jump at the chance to lay others' bare before the eyes of the world. We run ourselves ragged – living unsustainable and unfulfilling lives that foster depression, anxiety, and fatigue. None of us is immune to the darkness.

Of course, we are appalled when we see abuse and compassionate when we see pain, but I'm not sure we should be surprised by any of it. Scripture tells us over and over again that the world is full of darkness, pain, hurt, and sin. It's because this cycle is so predictable that we ought to be even more prudent in our pursuit of Jesus, the light of life, in our lives.

I watched an analogy of this play out just the other day. Each October our youth program, Veritas, spends one of its evenings on Gilfillan Farm. We play games, roast marshmallows, sing praise to God, pray with one another, and then finally gather

around the fire to share stories of God's work in our lives. This year was a particularly meaningful experience because our time of worship and prayer began in daylight and ended in the darkness of night. As the light faded in the sky, there was a perceivable shift in our group. One by one the teenagers shifted closer to the fire, gathering near its warmth and light, and as they shared their prayers and stories, a compassionate quiet and stillness came on the group. The darkness provided an opportunity to listen and even the dim light of the fading fire compelled the group to gather more closely to it and, consequently, one another.

Light in the darkness is profound. While we far too often use darkness as a time to divide, what if instead we used it as a time to listen? And though a dim light may be overlooked in the brightness of day, even the dimmest light can provide comfort, hope, and direction in the darkness.

Yes. Very often it looks dark in our world, but the light that is within you and me can be a cause for hope for those who have none. And I think you'll find that as each of us draws closer to the light, we'll also be drawing closer to one another.

What darkness is in your world today? What message of hope and redemption does Jesus, the light of our world, have to shine into your darkness? I'd love to listen to your story.

– Ed Sutter

GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

A few weeks ago the lesson for our Wednesday night JAM program was based on the verses where Paul encourages Timothy to step into a leadership role, even though he was younger than many of the believers.

Command and teach these things. You are young, but do not let anyone treat you as if you were not important. Be an example to show the believers how they should live. Show them with your words, with the way you live, with your love, with your faith, and with your pure life.

— 1 Timothy 4:11-12
(International Children's Bible)

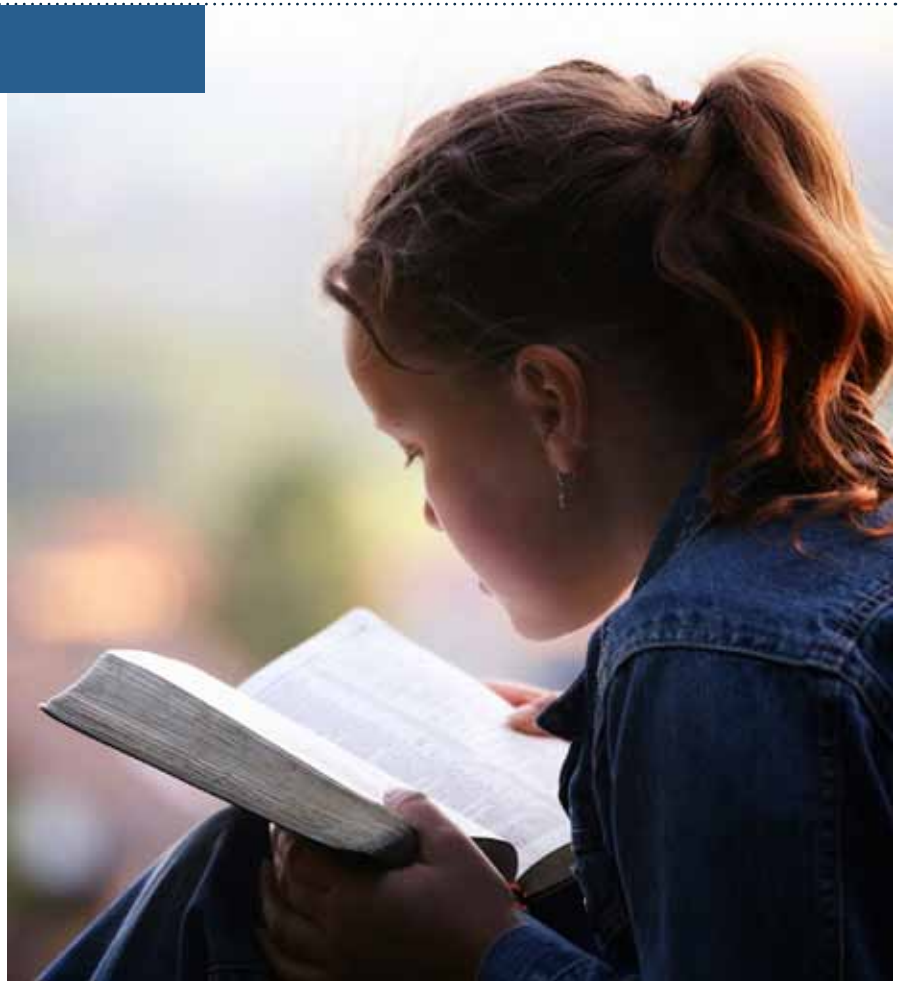
These fifth and sixth graders could certainly relate to Timothy's experience of being young, and perhaps not being taken very seriously or even being ignored, because of his age. Their sense was that it is hard for adults to listen to kids because it might seem as if the adults didn't know very much, and they would be embarrassed. I thought it was interesting that they identified – and identified with – our insecurities. Sometimes we find it hard to listen to others' ideas because it might make us feel silly or not very smart.

We looked more closely at the ways in which Paul tells Timothy to be an example to other believers. "Show them with...

...your words." Although they suggested that they could tell adults about God and their faith, the kids quickly agreed that it is really difficult to get adults to listen to what they have to say. They described adults' reaction like this: "The grown-ups are just too busy; and anyway they think 'oh, you're just a kid, what do you know?'"

... your love." These fifth and sixth graders know feeling love is sometimes easier than living it. They suggested that parents and teachers would notice if they responded to those around them (like siblings and classmates) in caring ways, especially when those others haven't been very loving toward us. An example they gave was when your little brother takes something that's important to you and you really want to hit him, but instead you give him a hug and ask for it back nicely. It would surprise adults if kids acted that way, wouldn't it?

... your faith." The kids talked about reading the Bible, attending church, serving in mission, and praying (in part because they know those are the right answers). But they also suggested praying for the adults (even if the adults don't know you are doing it), helping adults figure out using technology to read the Bible, and leading in church. Like singing in the choir, actively participating in the



service, and being the first to stand up for the hymns and worship music.

... your pure life." Using appropriate language, even when you're mad or frustrated, and not using bad language to show off or fit in were some of the examples the kids offered here.

... the way you live." Of course the kids made some of the usual suggestions, but I think they also hit on an important idea, with these two specific suggestions:

Take responsibility for yourself and for getting things done before you are asked. Adults expect that kids will do what they are asked to do (like homework and chores). But what if those things were already done when the parent or teacher asked? What if kids started to just notice when something needed to be done and did it? They thought that would get the adults' attention.

Do the right thing, even when no one is watching. They mentioned that lots of us do the right things to avoid getting in trouble, or to get credit for being nice or smart or good. But when living in the ways God wants us to is so much a part of us that we do it without thinking, even when no one seems to be paying attention, then we really are living out our faith. The kids think that certainly God will see it anyway – and that other people will notice it too, if we just keep on doing the right thing. Just because it is the right thing. Even when no one is watching.

– Robin Pyles

“Have My Bible, Now What?” Workshop

During this four-week workshop for second and third graders, students learned about their *New Adventure Bible* and all the amazing parts of this special book. The workshop introduced wonderful messages and promises in God’s word. As their Bible name suggests, these students were on an adventure of reading, exploring, and discovering all their Bible had to offer them.

Through activities and games, they learned how to find Bible passages and use the many parts of their Bible. They became very familiar with it.

The children can now say – “Have my Bible and I know how to use it!”

– Debb Egli



For the *word* of the *Lord* is right and true;
he is *faithful* in all he does.

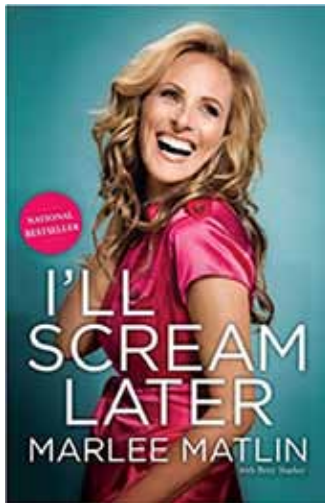
– Psalm 33:4

Library News

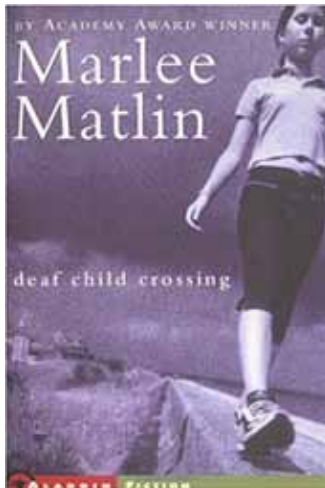
Two Books by Marlee Matlin

Jason and I are huge fans of the television show *The West Wing*, so when we learned that Marlee Matlin, an actress from the show, would be speaking at Town Hall South we knew we wanted to go. As I sat down for Ms. Matlin's talk all I knew about her was that she is an actress and she is deaf. After listening to her speak I realized that she is also determined, inspirational, and very funny!

She became deaf when she was 18 months old. In spite of this her parents supported her to dream big, telling her she could do anything she set her mind to. She said, "The only thing I can't do is hear." She faced struggles being deaf but didn't let that stand in her way of fulfilling her dream of becoming an actor, and at age 21 she became the youngest woman to win an Academy Award for Best Actress. She has since continued to act in movies and on TV. She is also an advocate for the deaf community, and was instrumental in the passage of the law requiring all televisions to include the technology for closed captions, which display the words being spoken on the television. If you would like to read more about Ms. Matlin's life, please stop by the church library and check out one of our newest books: her memoir, *I'll Scream Later*.



You can also check out Matlin's novel for middle grade children, *Deaf Child Crossing*, about the friendship between two girls, one of whom is deaf. In her talk for Town Hall South, Matlin said that she picked the title for the book based on her own life. As a child there was a sign outside of her house that said Deaf Child Crossing and she hated it. It made her feel singled out and different. Her parents told her that the sign could be seen as a good thing. How many of her friends had their own road signs outside their houses? The sign indicated that people were entering into Marlee's neighborhood! That story seemed to sum up Matlin's message. Life can be difficult, but we don't need to let that stand in the way of our dreams.



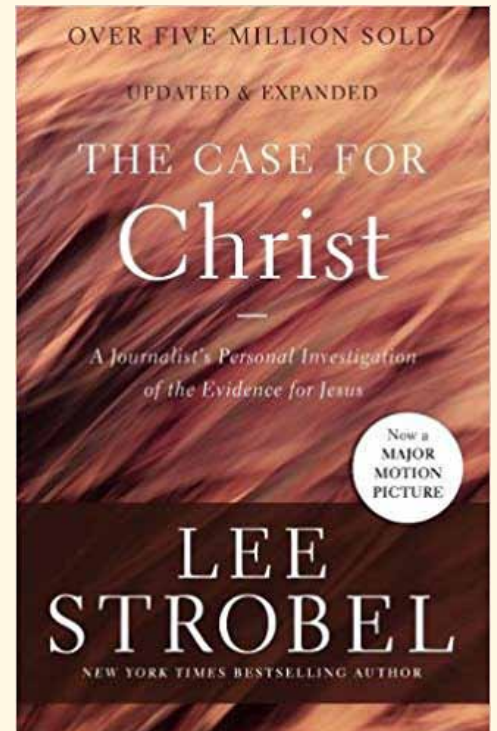
Thanks to Town Hall South for generously donating both books to the library!

– Sarah Fetterman-Freyer
Church Librarian

Westminster Book Group

Wednesday, November 29
Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Yahweh Café

The Westminster Book Group will discuss *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel at its next meeting, on November 29. We invite you to bring a brown bag lunch and join us.



Winner of the Gold Medallion Book Award and twice nominated for the Christian Book of the Year Award, Strobel's tough, point-blank questions read like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction. It's a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure. The new edition includes scores of revisions and additions, including updated material on archaeological and manuscript discoveries, fresh recommendations for further study, and an interview with the author that tells dramatic stories about the book's impact, provides behind-the-scenes information, and responds to critiques of the book by skeptics.

– Amazon

Fall 2017 Rummage-Recycling Sale

Saturday, November 11

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, November 10
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:00 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 YOU!

Volunteers are needed both Friday and Saturday. Join the Collection Day Crew any time between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. for great fellowship, food, and shopping. On Saturday we need at least 60 volunteers. 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: Art of the Trio

Andrew Fouts, violin

Patricia Halverson, viola da gamba

Scott Pauley, theorbo

November 10

7:30 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel

Chatham Baroque's artistic directors present their annual trio concert, showcasing their most adventurous and virtuosic music, tight ensemble playing, and mischievous sense of fun.

Tickets, with discounts for seniors and students, are available online and at the door. For more information and ticket prices, visit www.chathambaroque.org or call 412-687-1788.



Caring Notes

Samaritan Counseling Center at Westminster

Where can you turn for support during crises or transitions in your life? Who can you look to for guidance to achieve whole health and healing?

The caring ministries at Westminster Church encompass a variety of services to support the congregation and surrounding communities. One of our significant partnerships is with Samaritan Counseling Center of Western Pennsylvania, which houses a satellite location here at Westminster Church.

Their therapists provide one-on-one counseling for adults, children, adolescents, couples, and families. Here is an overview of their perspective:

We realize that we all go through difficult times – times when despair, loneliness, depression, grief and marital or family disagreements become overwhelming or even debilitating.

At Samaritan Counseling Center, you will find a caring professional who...

- Listens with patience, compassion, and understanding
- Is sensitive to your unique viewpoint and circumstances
- And is committed to guiding you on your journey to healing.

In addition the center provides Life Coaching Services, Anger Management, and Spiritual Direction.

Carl Baughman, who has done an exceptional job as the executive director for the past 24 years, is retiring in November but the organization will continue to thrive under the new leadership of Reverend Dr. Graham Standish. At Westminster Church, there are three full time counselors, each with a different focus.

Elder Susan Van Cleve is the Westminster Church Session liaison with the counseling center. She says, "The Samaritan Counseling Center provides Westminster members and the community the ability to seek confidential counseling with expert counselors in a safe and caring environment. The ability to have fees adjusted on a sliding scale depending on income makes the counseling available to those who do not have health insurance or have high deductibles or co-pays."

Here at Westminster Church, the pastors, Ed Sutter, and the counselors at Samaritan Counseling Center are all available to provide faith based counseling and pastoral care. To find out more about the Samaritan Counseling Center, call them directly at 412-741-7430 or see Louise Rogers. We are blessed to have so many helpful services available to us.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

– Louise Rogers



Help Decorate Our Church

On Wednesday, November 29, members of the Chancel Guild and friends will decorate the Christmas trees in the sanctuary, north and south entrances, and Memorial Parlor. You are cordially invited to help. Decorating starts about 9:00 a.m. We break for a light lunch and then finish any remaining tasks.

The Christmas holiday season is almost here. Westminster Presbyterian Church seasonally decorated is a glory to God and fills our hearts with gladness. Please join us. Contact Joy Mahrer 724-941-6389 or joymahrer@yahoo.com for more information.

Spotlight on *Fitness* at the WROC

Why enroll in the WROC fitness programs and not a health club? Because we offer more than programs! The WROC is part of something bigger. It is part of a family – first the church family and then our extended community. We help to quiet the discomfort or intimidation that bubbles up when walking into a fitness center for the first time. The WROC instructors care for the whole person through prayer, encouragement, and knowledge of health and fitness. Try your first class free. You'll feel the difference!



Barre Pilates Fusion

This fun, energetic workout fuses classical ballet and Pilates to strengthen and tone your lower body and core. Class includes 30 minutes of barre work followed by 30 minutes of mat work. No experience necessary!

Thursdays, November 2 – December 21

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Instructor: Lori Misitis

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (55+ Friendly)

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program is a fun-filled, low-impact course that helps most people with arthritis increase their joint flexibility and find relief from arthritis pain. The program features gentle, joint-safe movements and can be adapted for various fitness levels. This low-impact, fun class can be taken either sitting or standing.

Mondays, October 30 – December 18

9:30 – 10:20 a.m.

Cost: \$40

Instructor: Amy Taylor

Wednesdays, November 1 – December 13

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Cost: \$30

Instructor: Anne Brucker

Instructor Anne Brucker has worked for 40 years as a teacher, lecturer, and researcher in the health industry. You will enjoy the energy, expertise, and spirit Anne brings to class. Among the many certifications Anne holds, she is also a certified Arthritis Foundation instructor.



Zumba Saturday

Saturdays, September 9 – December 16

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Pay per class: \$6

Instructor: Lori Misitis

Zumba

Instructor Lori Misitis has been leading fitness classes for over six years, after falling in love with Zumba. Her fitness life includes leading classes in Zumba, Zumba Gold, Piloxing, and Barre Pilates Fusion. Lori holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in musical theatre from Point Park College, which reinforced her love of dance. Before becoming a mom to a beautiful girl, who just happens to have Down syndrome, Lori spent years gracing various stages across the country and off Broadway. Now her time is spent as part-time cheer and dance mom and part-time instructor, sharing her love of dance and fitness with many students around the Pittsburgh area. Come and meet her at the barre or on the dance floor!

Online Giving with MyWPC

Last year we introduced MyWPC, a secure online tool that will help members stay connected with Westminster's activities and events, as well as manage personal information and giving.

With the upcoming stewardship season, MyWPC makes pledging and giving a quick and easy process while allowing you access to monitor your giving throughout the year.

Visit the church website at www.westminster-church.org and click on MyWPC in the upper, right-hand corner. Read about all of the benefits of using this new church tool.



When you're ready, click on the Login to MyWPC button:

- If you've used our system for event registration, type in your email address and password.
- If you haven't, or if you're not sure, click where it says "Need a login?"
- If you get an error message, please contact Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630x207 or hiner@westminster-church.org.
- Please be sure to remember your username and password for future use.



For instructions on using MyWPC to set up your 2018 pledge and to make online donations, please click the Give button, also in the upper, right-hand corner of the church website.

Questions about online pledging, giving, or using MyWPC may be directed to Anna Hiner at 412-835-6630x207 or hiner@westminster-church.org.

Donations of Appreciated Assets

Contributors to Westminster Presbyterian Church may give appreciated assets to the church (such as stocks or mutual funds) without being required to pay tax on the capital gains. This can be accomplished either by delivering certificates to the church or by electronic transfer of these assets to Westminster Presbyterian Church as payment on your pledge. Please note that these gifts must be long-term investments. Short-term capital gains do not qualify for the tax benefits.

The procedure for each of these types of donations is quite simple.

CERTIFICATE DONATION

Present the certificates to Dave Reiter, church business administrator, at the church office.

The owner(s) must sign and date the certificates. If all of the shares of the certificate are being donated to Westminster Presbyterian Church, the owner(s) must sign a form letter to confirm the donation to Westminster Presbyterian Church.

If a fraction of the total shares of the certificate is being donated to Westminster Presbyterian Church, the owner(s) must sign a form letter to confirm the donation to Westminster Presbyterian Church and a request for reissue of the remaining fraction of certificate shares.

An acknowledgement of the receipt of the stock shares will be given or sent to the donor(s), followed by a confirmation letter of the sale, per share average price for the date of the gift, and total value of the donation.

ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

Notify your broker that you wish to donate shares to Westminster Presbyterian Church through Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

The transfer should go to:

DTC 0015

Account no. 827-105717-515

It is important that you or your broker contact Dave Reiter at the church office, 412-835-6630x201, informing us that a transfer is being made. This will ensure that proper credit is given to you on your church giving statement.

A letter of confirmation of the sale will be sent to the donor(s). This letter will state the date of sale, per share average price for the date of the gift, and total value of the donation.

If you have further questions, please call Dave Reiter at 412-835-6630x201.

Remembering All the Saints

During worship on November 5, we honor the memory of Westminster's members who have died over the past year as we remember God's faithful people through the ages in the unity of believers past and present.

They are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

— Revelation 7:15-17

*Janet Carnahan
Margaret Cissna
Frank Clark
Wilma Coffman
Florence Davis
Frances Dehn
Gale DeLeo
Jean Ewing
Carol Gates
Donna Heilman
Jane Hollman
Dorothy Junker
Paul Kienholz*

*Robert Lawrence
Helen Moore
James Myers
James H. Nogar
Jack O'Brien
Bartine Pace
Dominic Palombo Jr.
Earl Pruitt
Samuel Rockwell
William Singleton
William Stauff
John Welsh
Emily Wright
Marilyn Zelt*



Columbarium Price Increase

The price of columbarium receptacles will increase from \$1,500 each to \$1,750 each, effective May 1, 2018. Members who enter into an agreement to purchase a receptacle(s) before May 1, 2018, will receive the \$1,500 per niche price. Payment plans are available. If you are interested in purchasing a receptacle(s), contact Peg Kinsey at 412-835-6630x211.

Session Update

On October 16, Session welcomed 24 adults as new members of Westminster. Once again, our newest members bring a variety of gifts and interests to the life of the church, and we hope to have their pictures in the December *Spire*.

Session also heard a brief summary of highlights from the congregational survey that was conducted during worship on October 1, as part of a process of discernment about Westminster's direction in ministry and mission. Results are still being compiled and analyzed, and a more detailed summary will be available to the congregation in November. Meanwhile, we continue to be grateful to Westminster member Craig Marshall of Marshall Marketing for his generous support in our third major survey since 2010.

Financial Report *As of September 30, 2017*

General Fund Contributions	
Year-to-Date Actual 2017	\$1,369,745.58
Annual Budget	\$1,995,623.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$625,877.42

Year-to-Date Income Statement	
Income	\$1,632,362.41
Expenses	\$1,622,293.94
Net Position	\$10,068.47

We thank you for your wonderful support through the first nine 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 31% of our 2017 budgeted contributions yet to be fulfilled.

If you are current or ahead on your 2017 pledge, thank you for your continuing support. If you are behind on your 2017 pledge, we ask that you would consider catching up and fulfilling your pledge, so that we can continue to meet our commitments. Thank you.



Christmas Poinsettias

The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial or honoree contributions for poinsettias. The beautiful poinsettias throughout Westminster during the Christmas season are the result of generous contributions by our members and friends. Use the form below and make your check payable to the Chancel Guild. Mail the form and your check to Peg Kinsey at the church office or place it in the collection plate. Contributions must be received no later than **Monday, December 18**, so your gift can be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Please indicate below if you plan to pick up your flower or whether you would like it delivered to a shut-in.



Christmas Memorial and Honoree Poinsettia Order Form

Memorial Honoree

Name of Memorial/Honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

Deliver poinsettia to shut-in Will pick up poinsettia on Sunday, December 24, following the final Christmas Eve service (11:00 p.m.)
OR Tuesday, December 26, or Wednesday, December 27 (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

NOTE: The church is closed on Monday, December 25.

My Name _____

Please return this form to Peg Kinsey in the church office by Monday, December 18.



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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www.youtube.com/user/WestminsterUSC

O give *thanks* to the Lord,
for he is good; for his steadfast love
endures forever.

Psalm 106:1

