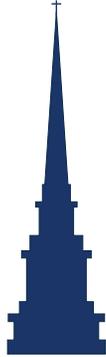


THE SPARE



April 2022
Volume 63 No. 4

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

EASTER US

When Jesus entered Jerusalem the last week of his life, the crowds shouted “hosanna,” meaning “save us.”

Those who gathered with their cloaks and palm branches wanted a savior of their own desires rather than the humble love that appeared on a donkey. How quickly he went from savior to criminal and later corpse. His followers witnessed his body slashed and pierced. He failed to overthrow the powers of the day.

Three days later, in the early morning silence, several women experienced the shock of an empty tomb. Some disciples fled. Some locked themselves in a room.

How could new life emerge from after what they’d witnessed?

His bodily presence with them on the beach and road of life confirmed God is present in the gallows of an agonizing death and will bring us into new life. Over time and in community, people came to believe, truly believe, of the power of God’s love revealed in Christ’s resurrection.

God proved more powerful than the worst of human behavior.

For us to skip from the pageantry of Palm Sunday to the patent-leather mary-janes and chocolate bunnies of Easter sidesteps the essence of our Christian faith.

When we’ve journey with Jesus through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we can trust God will triumph over the evil that leaves bodies strewn in the streets of Mariupol. We can trust ourselves to do the work Christ’s followers took up and bequeathed to us.

The word “Easter” refers to that mysterious morning. Scholar and pastor Walter Brueggemann turned this word from a single day into an ongoing act in his poem “Easter Us.” I invite you to meditate and pray on his words with the portions printed to the right.

In a world of perpetual Good Friday bad news, Christians live with Easter hope. Easter us now, O God.

In Christ,
Jo

Easter Us

You God who terrified the waters,
who crashed your thunder,
who shook the earth, and
scared the wits out of chaos.
You God who with strong arm saved
your people
by miracle and wonder and
majestic act.

You are the same God to whom we turn,
we turn in our days of trouble,
and in our weary nights;
we look for steadfast love and are
dismayed,
we wait for your promises, but wait
in fatigue,
we ponder your forgetfulness and
lack of compassion,
and we grow silent.....

Easter us,
salve wounds,
break injustice,
bring peace,
guarantee neighbor,
Easter us in joy and strength.
Be our God, be your true self, lord of life,
massively turn our life toward
your life
and away from our anti-neighbor,
anti-self deathliness.
Hear our thankful, grateful, unashamed
Hallelujah!

– Walter Brueggemann
published in Prayers for a Privileged People

Our Mission: We seek to be a caring community of faith committed to bringing people to Christ and developing their faith through worshipping God together, teaching the faith, and serving in mission.

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

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

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WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

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

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

Bridge Contemporary Worship

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

Traditional Worship

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

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

Upcoming Events

03 APR **Mendelssohn Choir Concert**
Sanctuary @ 2:30 p.m.

10 APR **Palm Sunday**
Pocket Change Project Collection
Children's Easter Egg Hunt

17 APR **Easter Sunday**



Easter @ Westminster

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Worship Services
Sunday, April 10
8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.

Maunder Thursday Worship Service
Thursday, April 14
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service
North courtyard (Fellowship Hall, if inclement weather)
with Ed Sutter and Louise Rogers

8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship
Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. – The Bridge Contemporary Worship
WROC & livestream

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship
Sanctuary & livestream

GOD IN THE SILENCE

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

– Luke 23:55-56 (NIV)

Silence is a powerful tool. If you have ever been on the receiving end of the silent treatment, you know how uncomfortable silence can become. Silence can be a powerful form of punishment because we see a broken relationship requiring communication to solve it. When God seems silent, we wonder what is happening? We may pray fervently over a problem, asking God to put an end to it, but solutions do not come. Why is God silent?

Christian writer Max Lucado recently spoke at Good Friday Worldwide. He pointed out that God was very active on Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified, but on Saturday – the Sabbath – God was silent. Max went on to say:

"Any time we discuss Easter weekend, we skip Saturday. Friday and Sunday get all the attention – the crucifixion and the resurrection – as well they should. But let's not skip silent Saturday, because you are in the middle of

one. You've been talking to God about your health, about your friend, about your job, about your future, and so far, no answer. It's a silent Saturday. And you wonder: Is God angry? Did I disappoint Him? God knows your career is at risk, your finances are in the pit, your mind is a mess, the world is infected. Why doesn't God act? And what are you supposed to do until He does? Jesus shows us. You do what Jesus did: you wait, and you trust. Jesus knew that God would not leave Him alone in the grave, and you need to know, my friend, that God will not leave you alone with your fears. His silence is not His absence, His inactivity is never apathy."

Saturdays have their purpose. They allow us to feel the full weight of God's power. Had God raised Jesus immediately after the death of his Son, would we have appreciated the act? For God to solve our problems the minute they appear, would we appreciate God's hope? God inserts a Saturday between our Friday and our Sunday on Holy Week. And if you're in the middle of one right now, I just urge you to pray and trust. During the silence, God will help you endure the strenuous Saturday, and you will find a celebration on Sunday.

Easter blessings to you and yours!

Louise

SILENCE FOR OUR LIVES

ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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"The *grace* of salvation, the *grace* of Christian wholeness that flowers in *silence*, dispels the illusion of separation. For when the mind is brought to *stillness*, and all our strategies of acquisition have dropped, a deeper truth presents itself. We are and always have been one with God and we are all one in God."

Martin Laird, *Into the Silent Land*

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

– Matthew 28:2

Just the other night I was speaking with a friend about the excitement and energy that has been present throughout the community of Westminster over the past few months. Let's be honest: while it would be untrue to say that there's been no energy at all around here, I think that we can all connect to the thought that we seem to be turning an important page in our history. From Wednesday evenings to Sunday mornings and everything in between, there's a whole new energy buzzing in and around this community.

As my friend and I talked about reconnecting with friends and members, exciting new programs and directions, and new ways of worshiping together, he paused and said, "What do you think changed?"

There is, of course, no shortage of answers to his question: warmer weather, exciting initiatives, program momentum, improving COVID data... on and on we could go. Let's not, however, overlook the power of the Holy Spirit in our time together. The power that rolled back the stone covering Jesus' tomb is the same power that we feel when we gather to worship with one another. The energy that breathed fresh life into Jesus' empty lungs is the same energy that breathes fresh life into this congregation. The Spirit that gave birth to Easter morning is the same Spirit that gives birth to a new page at Westminster. We don't do this on our own, friends.

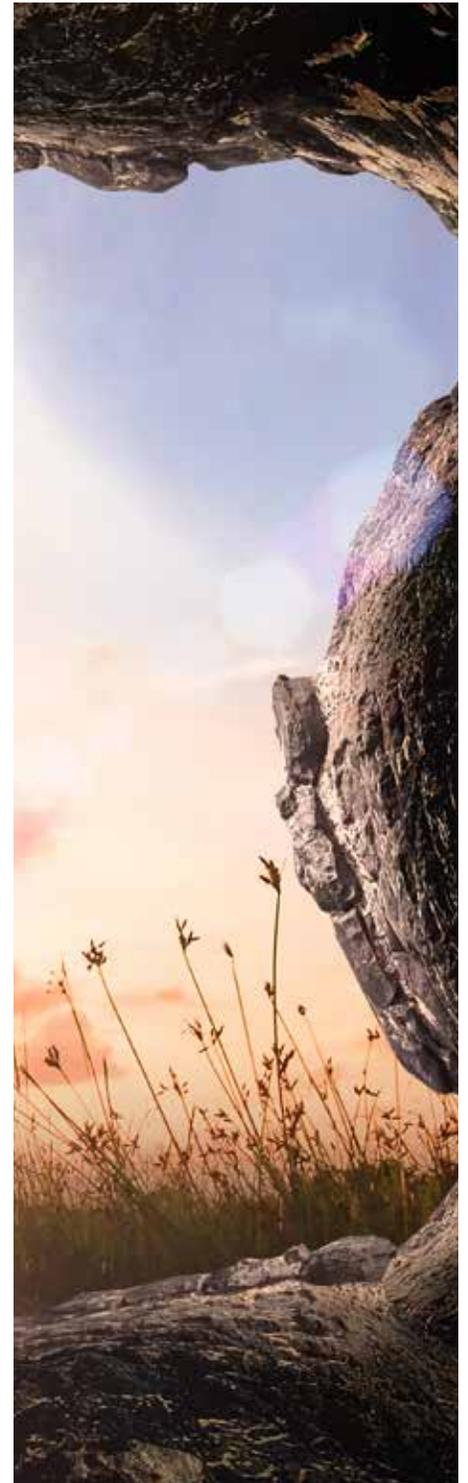
Working in vocational or even volunteer ministry comes with the temptation to stand back and look at "success" as the work of your own hands, but that view is inconsistent with what we believe to be true of God and God's work in the world. Even Jesus himself asked, "Why do you call me good?" (Mark 10:18), knowing full well that it is God who provides both the energy and the power to do the work that we call "successful." We must never forget to give thanks where thanks are due: the Holy Spirit is present within and among each of us.

I hope that you've felt it, too, this energy that seems to be growing here at Westminster. As we walk the final weeks of this Lenten season and approach the empty tomb that once belonged to Jesus, let's not forget to open our hands and turn our hearts to the power of the Spirit that made it all possible. From the very beginning of what would one day become the Christian church, the Holy Spirit has directed, motivated, and energized those called to the work of Jesus Christ. That's you, my friend. You are called, and the Spirit lives in you. I hope that you'll continue to join us as we follow the Spirit onto a new page.

Where might the Holy Spirit be calling you today? Have you felt any change in your energy or in your community? I'd love to hear your story.

Happy Easter, friends!

– Ed Sutter



Westminster Seminars

In Person and Online

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

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

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

April Series – April 3, 10, 24 (no seminar on Easter Sunday, April 17)

THREE REFORMERS: DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS

John E. Wilson

Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin are the main sources of Reformation history and theology. While they held much in common, the works of each contain aspects that are distinctive and characteristic, and that are still notable parts of current Presbyterian thought and practice. This series selects such characteristics for each Reformer and places them in comparison with the other two.

April 3 – Martin Luther: Faith and the Power of Destruction (the Devil); Faith and Reason



Martin Luther (1483-1546)
Workshop of Lucas Cranach the Elder, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

April 10 – Ulrich Zwingli: The Reformation in the City and the Issue of Justice



Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)
Hans Asper, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

April 24 – John Calvin: The Reformation of the Refugees and Church Discipline



John Calvin (1509-1564)
Unknown author, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

John E. Wilson is Professor Emeritus of Church History and former Dean of Faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He was ordained to Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church of Switzerland and holds the Habilitation in Theology (theol. habil.) from the University of Basel. He is the author of several works in theological history. His wife Nana facilitates the Centering Prayer group at Westminster.

WESTMINSTER BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, April 27
Noon – 1:15 p.m.
Library

At the next meeting of the Westminster Book Group, we will discuss *The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us.

Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck draws on his memories of childhood in these stories about a boy who embodies both the rebellious spirit and the contradictory desire for acceptance of early adolescence. Unlike most coming-of-age stories, the cycle does not end with a hero "matured" by circumstances.... *The Red Pony* is imbued with a sense of loss. Jody's encounters with birth and death express a common theme in Steinbeck's fiction: They are parts of the ongoing process of life, "resolving" nothing. – Amazon

WE BELONG TO GOD: MYSTICISM OF HEARTBREAK AND GRIEF

“Our hearts are restless until they rest in God.” – St. Augustine

A compelling example of human heartbreak is Lena Horne’s singing the song “Stormy Weather” (“since my man and I ain’t together”) in the movie titled appropriately *Stormy Weather*. There are also many instances and stories of human grief resulting not only in depression, and even physical illness and death, over the passing of a lover or spouse. Today Ukrainians are faced with everything they have being destroyed by a Russian leader whose sanity is being questioned. And we can also now fear the threat of nuclear war and even the destruction of our planet by global warming. These are all experiences of separation. Anyone who has lived long enough can relate to these experiences. And anyone who has had one knows that they’re like time standing still. There can even be a sense that we will never be the same.

From a mystical point of view there is also something to be said about experiences of separation. Mysticism has everything to do with our relationship with God for Jews and Christians – or for others, with something that has a transcendent meaning for them. Christian mystics experience an inner deep and abiding relationship with God that brings them to contemplative prayer and a deep sense of union with God. But if it were possible for us to be separated from God, the loss would be a deeper one than any other loss or separation. Perhaps a separation from God could even be described as a spiritual death. But such a loss is impossible if God is an indwelling presence in us as promised in Scripture.

Yet many people believe we are separate from God because of a perspective that God is in heaven and we are not. I will suggest that this is an unfortunate

misunderstanding. A separation from God, if it were real, would be even more than heartbreaking if it weren’t so widely accepted as normal. Sadly, a union with God seems unthinkable, if not heretical, to many believers. So it’s hard to say how deep such a loss would be in our Jewish and Christian hearts if we are not even aware of the indwelling God. But Christians can take heart from Paul’s teaching in Romans 8:38 that nothing can separate us from God’s love, and also from the psalmist’s teaching in Psalm 46 that mountains and nations may fall but the Lord is still with us. If all this were not true and we were separate from God, our situation would indeed be calamitous. When we lack awareness of God’s closeness to us, we’re like children who have run away from home.

The truth is that we are never really satisfied in this world. We have pacifiers of extraordinary variety, but if we are true to ourselves they will ultimately fail to make us happy. But our union with God, if we accept it, can sustain us in our other experiences of separation. As St. Augustine stated: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in God.” It’s a great error if we Jews and Christians accept a separation from God as part of our nature. The restlessness in the deepest part of ourselves would be inaccessible by us due to a self-imposed no trespassing sign denying access to the place within us where God resides.

When people have mystical or conversion experiences, they often report experiencing God for the first time in that sacred place deep within them.

– John Hayes
Adult Spiritual Development Commission



CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

**Palm Sunday, April 10
9:45 & 11:45 a.m.**

Attention, children and families! Join us Sunday morning, April 10, for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt at both the 9:45 Sunday school hour and at 11:45 immediately following worship. Children are invited to hunt for Easter eggs that will tell the story of Holy Week with a few surprises!

Parents, please bring your children to their regular Sunday school hour and room. 9:45 Sunday school dismissal will be from Room 194. 11:00 Sunday school parents can meet their children after worship in the courtyard for the Egg Hunt.

Kids, bring your best egg finding skills as we learn about Holy Week through the eggs you find.

See you Sunday, April 10!

Questions? Email Debb Egli: egli@westminster-church.org

IT'S A FOOD TRUCK PARTY at Barefoot School 2022!

Join us June 20-24, 2022.

At Food Truck Party VBS, students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they get on a roll with God. They will become *Chefs* and discover how we can turn to God in prayer every day to meet our needs and how we can join God in providing for the needs of others.

After a high-energy opening assembly time, the *Chefs* make their way to the Bible story station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal *Daily Specials* to equip your *Chefs* for an active life with God. Your *Chefs* will also discover our *Main Course* (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they've discovered by singing new songs, exploring the wonders of God's creation, playing games, enjoying tasty treats, and more. Along the way, the *Chefs* will hear about our mission project as their response to a call for action!

Registration opens May 1. For more information about volunteering, please contact Faith Kemmler at kemmler@westminster-church.org.

Join us as we get on a roll with God at the Food Truck Party!



A HAITI CHILD SPONSORSHIP CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 10
 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 North Entry

Haiti has struggled with many difficulties, especially during the past couple of years. But La Croix New Testament Mission stands as an oasis for its students. The mission depends on sponsorship to be able to educate and feed the 3,500 Pre-K to 13th grade students enrolled in its schools.

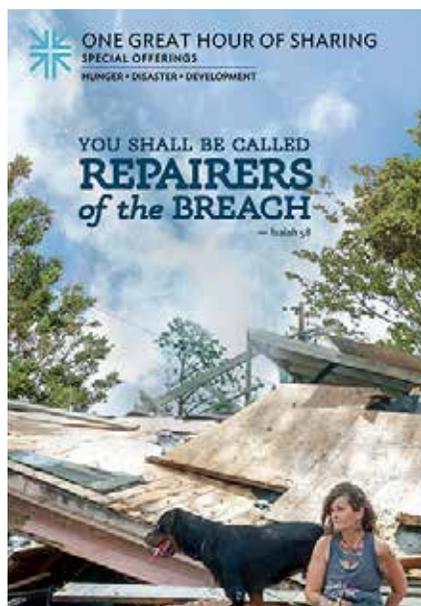
Currently 42 Westminster members and friends support 69 children. It has been a while since we have tried to increase the number of children sponsored by Westminster members. On April 10, Palm Sunday, we will focus on bringing more people into the sponsorship fold.

You are invited to come to the north entry anytime from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to learn more about Haiti Child Sponsorship. Current sponsors will be on hand to talk about their experience as a child sponsor. You will have the opportunity to select a Haitian student's profile from the 20 that will be offered, and to commit to one year of sponsorship. The cost of sponsorship is still \$20 per month, or \$240 per year per child.

On Sunday, April 10, come to the north entry, enjoy a beverage or snack, and learn more about how you can make a difference in the life of child in Haiti.



S.C. has been sponsored by Andrée Jeffrey since 2017. S.C. is 13 years old in 6th grade. Andrée has been a child sponsor to other children over the past 20+ years.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This Lenten season, join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need.

You can help sustain these important ministries and programs by donating this Lenten season. Envelopes are available in the pews, or you can securely give through Westminster's website: <https://www.westminster-church.org/member-resources/give>. Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it..." – Psalm 24:1

WROC TALK: SUCCESS WITH PERENNIALS

Experience the joy of gardening with perennials this year!

Tuesday, April 26

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

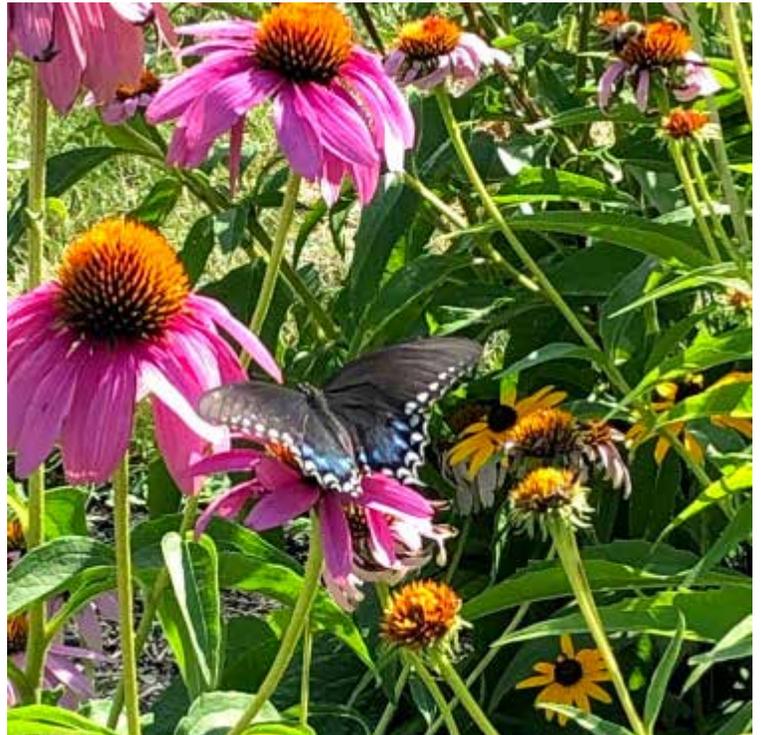
Fellowship Hall

Cost: *Free; registration required.*

Instructors: *Russ and Melanie Bedner*

Experience the joy of gardening with perennials this year. Presenters Russ and Melanie will cover the basics to get you started with confidence, plus show you some of their favorite plants and how to use them. You will learn what a perennial is, how to care for them, and which plants grow best in the sun or shade. The Bedners will also provide some mini-design ideas for grouping plants together.

About the presenters: Russ Bedner is the fourth generation of the Bedner family farming tradition. His parents bought their farm in Cecil Township in 1984, and in addition to growing produce, they started to grow flowers in greenhouses. Russ has been a part of the business every step of the way, and today runs the growing company with his wife, Melanie.



WESTMINSTER SINGLE WOMEN'S GROUP

Summer 2022 Kickoff!

We're back and interested in your ideas for a summer kickoff event. Contact Kathy Long at long@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630x200 with your suggestions.



WROC.WESTMINSTER-CHURCH.ORG

GRACE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, the oldest African-American Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, was organized January 12, 1868, and celebrated over 150 years of ministry a few years ago. Their mission is to win souls for Christ by proclaiming the gospel in word and deed.

Henry Highland Garnet, a former slave, came to Pittsburgh in 1868 after being appointed as the new president of Avery College, an institution of higher learning for African-Americans. Rev. Garnet, who was also the first African-American to speak before the House of Representatives, started a Presbyterian church for Blacks who were worshipping at the integrated Sixth Presbyterian Church in Squirrel Hill. He served as the first pastor of this church for two years. In 1948 Grace Memorial moved to its present location on 1000 Bryn Mawr Road.

Grace Memorial has been a safe haven in the Hill District area, with a history of strong and charismatic pastors, and they continue to build a ministry of hope. The African-American church has long been rooted in being a sanctuary, a safe place, and Grace wants to keep that going for many years in the future. The church also has had a strong community outreach that touches many outside the church. In 1995, Grace formed an afterschool program, the Schenley Heights Community Development Program (SHCDP), that continues as an academically focused out-of-school time service for youth K-9th grade, enabling them to achieve greater academic and social in-school success through cultural enrichment. Several of Westminster members have served or currently serve on the Board of Directors of this program.



Westminster is connected with Grace Memorial in various ways including a three-year joint funding of Rev. Gavin Walton's salary along with Shadyside Presbyterian when Rev. Walton was installed as pastor. For several years many Westminster members attended a Lenten workshop series held at the church, and together both churches hold a book study each Monday. This group started in May 2016 when 6 to 15



members of Westminster traveled together in a van to Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church to meet in their fellowship hall with Grace members to discuss a book, movie, or current events addressing issues of racial and economic justice. With COVID concerns and with some members now outside of the Pittsburgh area, the group now meets every Monday via Zoom for 90 minutes. Anyone is welcome to join. Email Bobbie Hartman at hartman1967@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

God's grace has kept Grace Memorial going and thriving for a century and a half in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, and this warm, welcoming, and faithful congregation is a powerful force for good and God's love here in Pittsburgh.

- Will Hignett



POPULAR SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS

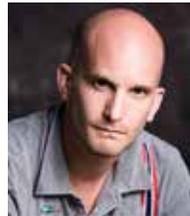
Town Hall South Speaker Series is delighted to announce the return of the series for the 2022-2023 season. The previously announced slate of speakers, twice postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, remains intact. The upcoming schedule includes:

Dan Rather
October 11, 2022



Dan Rather is a living witness to history, having covered the biggest news stories of our time for more than 60 years. His career at CBS spans 44 years including anchoring the *CBS Evening News* for 24 of those years. Rather has authored a *New York Times* bestseller, *What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism* – a hopeful reminder of the core values we all share.

Leon Logothetis
December 6, 2022



Global adventurer, motivational speaker and activist, Leon Logothetis hosts the Netflix series *The Kindness Diaries*. He has traveled the world, giving life-changing gifts to unsuspecting good Samaritans. Logothetis has written several books about acting with kindness and harnessing the power of human connection.

Dr. Temple Grandin
March 21, 2023



Dr. Grandin, professor of animal science at Colorado State University, is an accomplished and well-known adult with autism. She inspires others through her motivational speaking. Grandin's life is depicted in an Emmy award winning film, *Temple Grandin*. Her current best-selling book is *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's*.

Kevin Surace
November 15, 2022



Kevin Surface, Silicon Valley innovator and visionary, focuses on artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and automation and how they will impact our jobs and our future. He holds 28 U.S. patents and is responsible for numerous technologies that are commonplace today. Surace has also helped to develop, patent, and produce green technologies to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

Richard Stengel
February 7, 2023



Former Under Secretary of State and longtime editor of *Time* magazine, Richard Stengel speaks widely on fake news and disinformation. His most recent book is *Information Wars: How We Lost the Global War Against Disinformation and What We Can Do About It*.

Lectures are held beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Upper St. Clair High School Theater.

Tickets for the lecture series are available beginning April 1 at Town Hall South's website: www.townhallsouth.org. Cost for the series is \$165 for general admission. A limited number of reserved seats are available for \$190. Tickets are non-refundable and must be purchased for the entire series.

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South
SPEAKER SERIES
Est. 1969

WWW.TOWNHALLSOUTH.ORG

NOTES FROM THE ENDOWMENT AND SPECIAL GIFTS FUND

We thank Janis Davis who recently stepped off of our committee for her many years of support for the endowment. She recently provided the committee with a history of the fund from the humble beginnings in 1995, the growing support from senior pastors and the congregation, the growth strategy under Dr. Stuart Broberg in 2004-2005, and the additions to the fund from the New Cornfield and Forward in Faith capital campaigns. A \$500,000 endowment in 1995 is now around \$4.4 million. We are all very fortunate that the fund was large enough to extend the \$1.3 million loan to the church two years ago. Thank you to the donors for all of the generous gifts to the endowment over these years. God has truly blessed Westminster.

At the present, the fund is comprised of three parts:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Undesignated Corpus: | \$3,075,000 (appr.) |
| Balance of Loan to the Church: | \$1,031,000 (appr.) |
| Special Gifts: | \$261,000 (appr.) |

Per our charter, we can make grants of 4% of the total of the undesignated corpus and the loan balance – about \$160,000 in distributions for 2022. These distributions can be used to support programs which will expand Westminster's Christian ministry or the community at large, non-recurring capital projects, and short-term needs to start or revitalize ministries. We accept applications by March 31, and make recommendations on the distributions to Session for approval at their April meeting.

Our special gifts funds are another way for donors to give money to the endowment. Over the years, generous gifts have been extended for these funds which include Special Property Needs, McClintock Library Fund, Kitchen Maintenance, Music & Fine Arts, Archives, Senior Ministers/Pulpit Exchange, Chapel Organ, and Outreach.

Pictured below is a project funded with a gift from the Special Property Needs Fund. The South Courtyard/ Columbarium restoration project was badly needed by the church and paid for from this source of money.



Please consider a donation to the endowment or include it in your planned giving. If you have questions, please contact me, Jo Forrest, or any member of our committee.

Blessings,

Rob Wagner

WELCOME CAROL WEBBER

Westminster welcomes our new Director of Finance and Operations Carol Webber. Carol comes to Westminster with over 25 years of accounting experience. She is a certified public accountant. Her experience is in managing accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, payroll taxes, general ledger and preparing financial statements. She has hands-on experience with streamlining departments and processes. You can reach Carol at webber@westminster-church.org or 412-835-6630x201.



Carol has lived in Bethel Park for 22 years with her husband. They share their home with a ten-year-old feral rescue named Grayson who enjoys being a spoiled rotten only child.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of February 28, 2022

| FEBRUARY 2022 | Actual | Budget | Variance | Feb. 2021 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Income | \$156,098 | \$222,532 | \$(66,434) | \$193,749 |
| Expense | \$116,535 | \$166,931 | \$(50,396) | \$166,430 |
| Net Total | \$39,563 | \$55,601 | \$(16,038) | \$27,319 |

| YTD 2022 | Actual | Budget | Variance | YTD 2021 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Income | \$352,506 | \$397,840 | \$(45,334) | \$369,403 |
| Expense | \$268,056 | \$332,127 | \$(64,071) | \$311,534 |
| Net Total | \$84,450 | \$65,713 | \$18,737 | \$57,869 |

ENDOWMENT LOAN BALANCE \$1,013,109

BAPTISMS

January 9

Elizabeth Anne Stutzman
parents: Allison and Jared Stutzman

January 16

Charlotte Luna Weber-Klonicke
parents: Kaitlyn Weber and Alecia Klonicke

February 20

Daisy Mae Ruzicka
parents: Cheryl Rupert and Michael Ruzicka

March 20

Julian James Cox
parents: Janelle and Timothy Cox

Logan Malcolm McMillan
parents: Lindsay and Sean McMillan

DEATHS

Don Blasche
March 15

ATTENTION, BOOK READERS

Are you a reader like me, who still prefers to hold a book in your hands? I readily acknowledge the advantage of reading on a Kindle or an iPad. When you travel it's so easy to download as many books as you can read on your trip. They are all there on one fairly small, light device. Not to mention you can enlarge the print on your screen to accommodate middle or old age eyes. And it comes with background light.

A final advantage is that electronic books don't stack up around the house, crowding bookshelves and end tables.

But, if despite all of the above, you still love a book, the library has a solution for you. Beginning in April, we are opening a section



of the shelves for a "bring one, take one" exchange. The books may be fiction, biography, or non-fiction – either adult, young adult, or children's. But we ask that they be something relatively recent, something that you would recommend to a friend or relative. No textbooks or dusty volumes from your basement or attic, please. Save these for a rummage sale.

There is no need to check anything in or out. Just "Bring a book, Take a book." And while you are there, take a look at the changes that have been made in your church library. It has a new look!

– Julie Krock
Westminster Church Librarian



Easter Flowers

Spring is just around the corner. The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial/honoree contributions for Easter flowers. If you would like to participate in this Westminster tradition, please make checks payable to "Westminster Presbyterian Church," and write "Easter flowers" on the memo line.

Checks and forms can be mailed, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the Sunday collection plate.

Your contribution and completed form must be received **by Monday, April 11**, so that your gift can be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please indicate on the form if you will pick up your Easter flower following the Bridge or 11:00 service on Easter Sunday, or if you would like the deacons to deliver your flower 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 the church office by **Monday, April 11**.





WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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

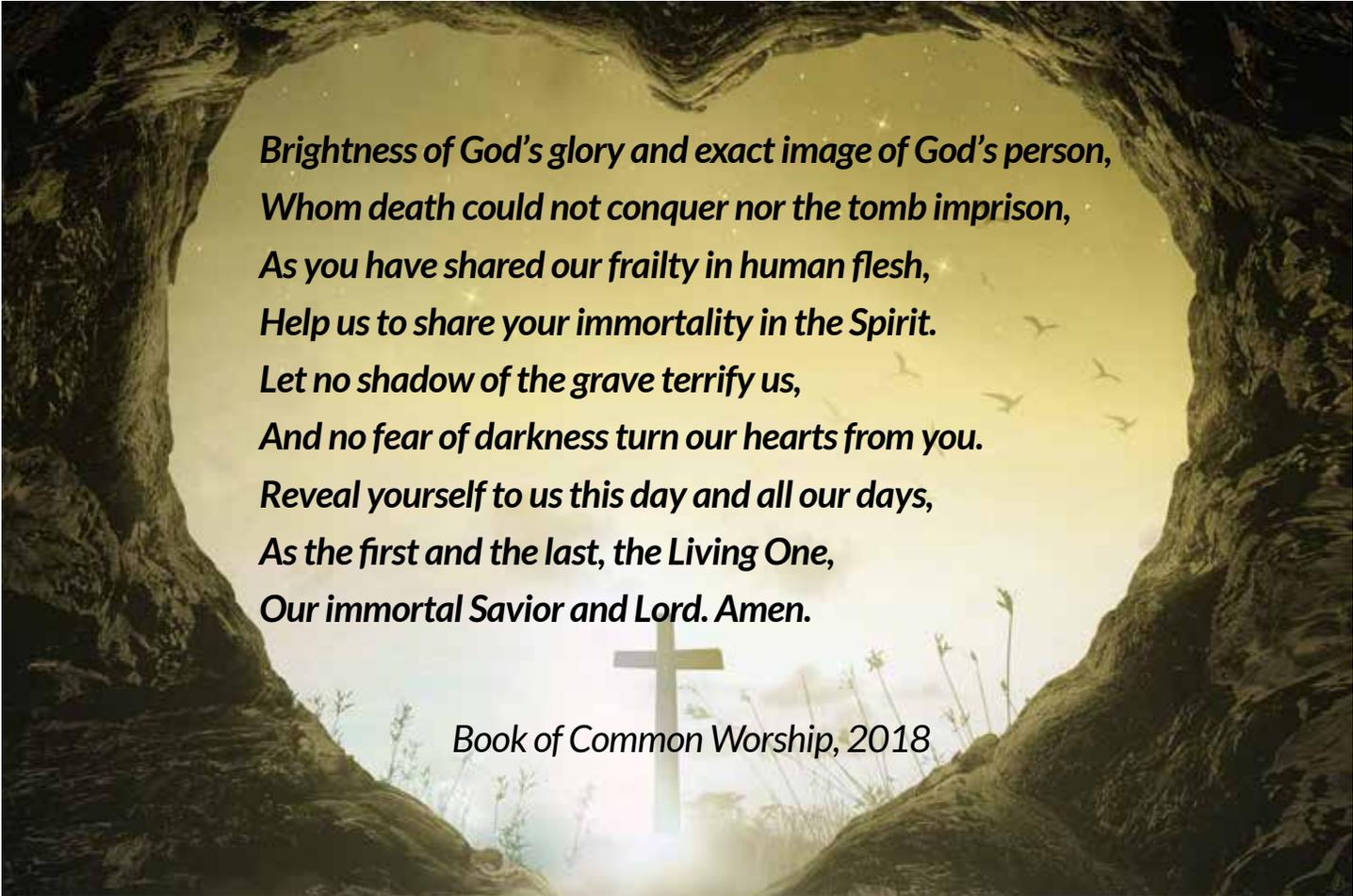
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WESTMINSTER.PITTSBURGH



WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/WESTMINSTERUSC



***Brightness of God's glory and exact image of God's person,
Whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison,
As you have shared our frailty in human flesh,
Help us to share your immortality in the Spirit.
Let no shadow of the grave terrify us,
And no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.
Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days,
As the first and the last, the Living One,
Our immortal Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Book of Common Worship, 2018