



THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, PA

Thy Kingdom Come

Every Sunday we pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” But do we know what we’re saying, and do we really mean it?

Jesus tells us a great deal about what the kingdom of God is like, as does the Bible in general. The kingdom of God is where God’s will is done – which is why it’s also called the kingdom of heaven, and why it can break in on earth as well.

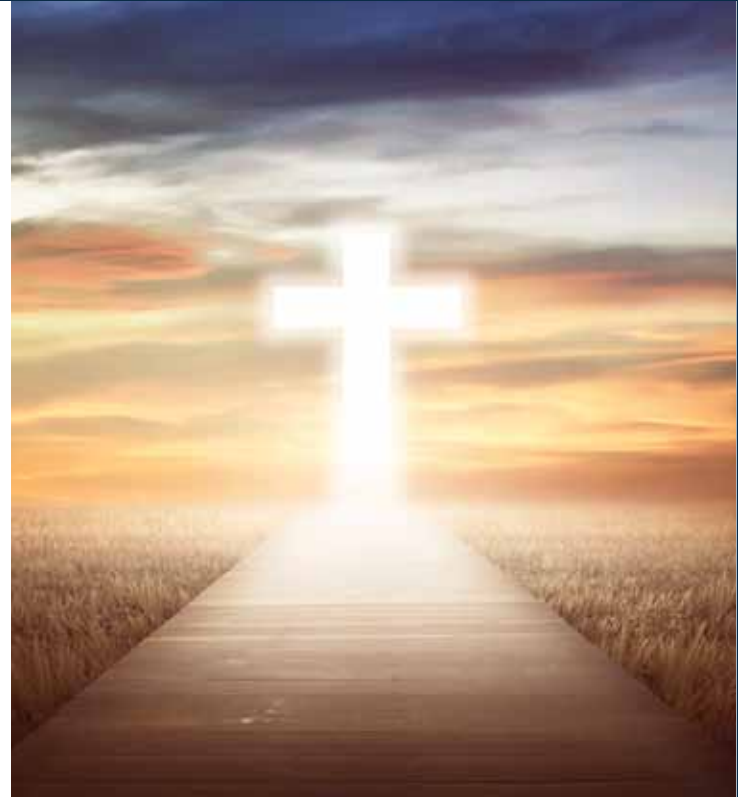
In the kingdom of heaven people do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God, as the prophet Micah says. Justice here means treating people as they ought to be treated; and that, of course, is another way of stating the Golden Rule or the Great Commandment. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Love your neighbor as yourself.

When a lawyer asks Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” looking for loopholes, Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan, by way of saying that the neighborhood includes the foreigner too. In short, we are to treat *everyone* as we ourselves would want to be treated in their situation. No one is excluded from love in the kingdom of heaven.

That fundamental rule, no matter how we say it, corrects all sorts of unworthy behaviors, and cuts through every attempt to rationalize them. It means there’s no denying others the things we consider to be basic necessities. It says we must not shut other people out where we would want to be welcome. It reminds us not to condemn our fellow human beings when we would hope to find grace.

To be sure, there is accountability in the kingdom of heaven. God’s justice requires that wrongs be made right, and evil must face consequences in the end. That’s true not only in the Old Testament but also in the New, where Jesus’ Parable of the Sheep and Goats makes plain the penalty for indifference to our neighbors’ needs.

We pray “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,” because that’s how Jesus taught us to pray. But the only way God’s will can



be done on earth is for us to do it – that is, if the people of God live in ways that reflect the kingdom of heaven. Our will must be reshaped until it conforms to God’s will, and then we ourselves will be the way the kingdom comes.

That’s why the behavior of religious people is so important. Nothing makes Jesus madder than religious hypocrites, because they give God a bad name. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” he says. “For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.” Here he sounds like an Old Testament prophet.

God has told us what to do, and shown us in Jesus Christ himself. To the extent that we do it, this part of the Lord’s Prayer will be answered.

PASTOR

DR. JIM GILCHRIST, *Senior Pastor, Head of Staff*
 REV. LOUISE ROGERS, *Associate Pastor*
for Congregational Care
 REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor*
for the Bridge, Youth & Media

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Family Ministry

DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's and*
Family Ministry

ED SUTTER, *Director of Middle School Ministry &*
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JAN BAUMANN, *Volunteer Coordinator*

CARRIE KUSHNER, *Kitchen Manager*

WESTMINSTER RECREATION & OUTREACH CENTER (WROC)

KATHY LONG, *Director*

NURSERY SCHOOL

412-835-2906

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

412-835-9450

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

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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Traditional Worship

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🕒	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
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The Bridge Contemporary Worship

📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
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*The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.
Gluten-free wafers are available at all services.*

Ash Wednesday

Worship Service

Wednesday, February 14
7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary



Upcoming Events

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FEB Inquirers'
Gathering

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FEB Chatham
Baroque at
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FEB Rise Against
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FEB Ash Wednesday
Service
7:30 p.m.

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FEB Blood Drive

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
Galbreath Chapel

February Series

Creating Sacred Space for Our Mental Health

Rev. Jeff Eddings, Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community
Autumn Brownlee, Mental Health Therapist
Lynn Holden, Licensed Professional Counselor and
Spiritual Director

The church is often on the forefront of meeting the physical needs of those who come through their doors. However, the church has been less effective in attending to the emotional and mental health needs of those same individuals in ways that are helpful or hopeful.

This seminar series will focus on how the church can create sacred and holy space for people who are experiencing mental health concerns and illness. While we all have a mental health story to tell, some of us have greater need in this area than others. How do we begin to incorporate people with chronic and persistent mental health struggles into the life, ministry, and worship of the church? Come and hear how Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community has made intentional efforts to find hopeful and healing ways to bring spirituality and mental health together in the church setting.

Jeff Eddings (www.jeffeddings.com) is a founding pastor of Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community, where he has been since 2004. He recently took on the role of coaching associate for the 1001 New Worshiping Communities of the PC(USA). He lives on the South Side with his wife Carolyn, sons Ben and Sam, and their dogs Luna and Duncan.

Autumn Brownlee is a therapist at Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. She is currently working as community therapist at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community and provides services for their community meal ministry, *The Table*. She is passionate about the potential of mental health and healing within supportive communities. She lives in Dormont with her husband Brent, and her two daughters Iris and Margot.

Lynn Holden (www.lynnholden.com) is a spiritual director and licensed professional counselor who works from a model of personal and spiritual growth. Her private practice extends beyond her Wexford office to include contemplative retreats, teaching, consulting, and facilitating groups. She and her husband are longtime members of Glenshaw Presbyterian Church, elders in the PC(USA), and the parents of two adult children and two aging cats.



February 4 – Disconnection of Mental Health and Church Culture

February 11 – Moving from “Those People” to “Our People”

February 18 – How Do We Develop a Culture of Caring, Openness, and Welcome

February 25 – Creating Sacred Space: The Kintsugi Worship Experience



A Joyful Noise

I do not miss the days of driving each and every day into town for seminary, save for the ability to listen to a whole bunch of music at intolerably loud volumes in the car. You see, I grew up on punk rock and roll. If the car isn't shaking with the thumping bass, it's just not loud enough. So irreparable damage to my ear drums aside, it was my joy to rock out in the car on the way to school and back every day.

One day I was driving and listening to a band that I hadn't really picked up since high school. They call themselves Five Iron Frenzy, and while they are one of the goofiest bands on the planet, they also happen to write some of the most profound lyrics I've ever heard. While I was waiting at a stop light, this particular set of lyrics hit me like a freight train:

Healing hands of God
 Have mercy on our unclean souls once again
 Jesus Christ, Light of the World
 Burning bright within our hearts forever
 Freedom means love without condition
 Without beginning or an end
 Here's my heart, let it be forever Yours
 Only You can make every new day seem so new

Something about the moment, about singing grace and forgiveness at the top of my lungs, with the bass so heavy as to cause small tremors around my vehicle, made me lose it. I started crying right there in the car at the traffic light. And not like a little either. It was ugly crying, kind of like convulsing with tears. And that's when the guy behind me honked. I don't know how long the light had been green, but I'm guessing a little bit. And that's when I tried to figure out a hand signal for "Sorry I'm slow. I was busy worshiping up here and I was overwhelmed by the grace of my Lord." Still working on that one.

Scripture tells us again and again that worship is central to what we do as Christians. Recognizing who God is and giving God credit for it is one of the highest callings of the Christian life. And also, interestingly, it seems that music is the way much of that gets done in scripture. Particularly in the psalms, God's people are constantly breaking forth in song.

And it turns out that music does some remarkable things to us. Dr. Luciano Bernardi led a study which concluded that "there is a continuous interaction between the music dynamics and our cardiovascular system, whether there are conscious emotions or not." He noted that when listening to music, our breathing might change. Our heart rates may fluctuate. And if a group of people are listening to the same music together, their hearts may actually sync up.

What a cool image for worship together in the church! A group of people from different walks of life, different backgrounds, different life situations, all gathered together to sing praises to God may very well find their hearts synchronized. This is a connection much deeper than just standing around and talking about our ideas of God. This is a community coming together in a deeply profound way, and placing God in the center of it. No wonder we're asked to sing so much!

My encouragement to us this month would be to listen a little bit more to our hearts in worship. What happens to us as a community when we sing the praises of our great God? What happens to our hearts when we stand next to strangers and lift up our songs of gratitude? How are we more deeply connected when we're listening to our incredible choir, our rocking praise band, or our beautiful pipe organ? I think we might be surprised by what worship does in and through us. And if it brings a tear or two to your eyes, don't worry. At least we don't have stop lights in church!

– Jason Freyer

BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

On more than one occasion over the past several weeks of cold weather I've gone outside for a brief time and thought to myself, "It must be warmer today," only to look at a thermometer and find that it was in fact somewhere in the teens. It's amazing how our bodies acclimate to the climates we live in. This experience has me thinking, what else do we acclimate to? What else do we slowly get used to and then soon or eventually ignore?

Perhaps you've heard the expression "boiling the frog." The phrase refers to the theory that a frog placed in room temperature water will remain in its place as the water is brought to a boil, even though the very same frog will avoid being placed in water that is already boiling. The theory is based on the fact that because frogs are cold-blooded their body temperature adjusts to the changes in its environment. In other words, the frog will boil without recognizing the change because it happens incrementally over time. You and I may not be all that different from the frog.

How often have you heard someone say, "How did we get here?" It's a lot like the boiling frog – little by little we accept or hide our eyes from small changes until their sum effect is too much to ignore. Here's a quick challenge for you: set down this article, take a deep breath, and ask yourself, "How did I get here?"

A first step would be to answer the question "Where is 'here'?" Take a quick inventory of your job, your family, your daily activities, your hobbies and habits – basically anything that fills time during your day. Did you ever imagine that you'd one day be where you are right now? Is your life and time filled with what you had hoped for or expected? If so, are you satisfied with how you achieved your goals? Did you do it "the right way"? If you're in an unexpected place, what events or decisions led to your arrival?

I suppose the real question is this: are you boiling? Sometimes years of inaction and complacency can bring us to places that we never would have expected, or even accepted just a short time ago. Like the frog, we'd jump out of this water if we could, but we may not even recognize the danger we're in; perhaps we've boiled slowly.

Several times in scripture Jesus encourages us to "keep watch," which prompts us to ask, "Keep watch for what?" Perhaps a piece of this answer lies in the tale of the boiling frog. When we fall complacent to the lives we're living, we are in danger of boiling slowly. We allow for sin to creep in; we fall back into old habits we'd moved on from long ago; we neglect our loved ones and friends because we've said "not right now" a few too many times. We need to keep watch on our direction, who we are becoming. Even those of us who say things like "I take each day as it comes" are actively choosing direction. There's no such thing as passive decision making. Keep watch.

So, did you take me up on my challenge? Where are you now, how did you get here? I'd love to hear your story. Feel free to get in touch.

– Ed Sutter



GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

The house we lived in when our children were very young was designed so that the “family room” (read “basically child-proof area with enough toys to keep three preschoolers safely occupied”) and kitchen were actually one relatively large room. Which meant that, while I was engaged in one of the many chores required to keep the family running, I could also indulge in one of my favorite activities: eavesdropping on the kids as they played together. One of the reasons I found it so amusing was that often I heard echoes of myself or my husband when the children repeated one or more of the many phrases I used, again and again, as I herded three small humans through each day. It was entertaining to hear them repeat our words, using the same tone of voice and inflection, as they played in their own make-believe world.

Of course, my education and experience in psychology, teaching, and language acquisition let me know that, while this behavior was certainly entertaining, it was also a vital part of how the children were learning to understand and negotiate the world. They experimented with the roles, actions, and language they saw and heard the big people using. They imitated, borrowing our words and movements, and tried our ways of speaking and doing. The children were on the way to developing their own ways of living.

Although it has been said that “imitation is the sincerest form of flattery,” I have to admit that some of what I heard while listening to the children wasn’t always all that flattering. Certainly there were times that my heart was warmed as I heard the sweet, loving words and voices they used in their play. But not always. Sometimes the children’s words made me cringe. When I heard an impatient tone or unkind, short-tempered words, I recognized exactly where the children had heard them. It was obvious that, in our home at least, “monkey see, monkey do” was clearly in operation. It seems to me that it isn’t only true in my own family.

Our Creator, of course, knew that people learn a great deal through observation and imitation. In the Old Testament, Moses passes on God’s instructions to the people – God’s rules and commands for daily living. Embedded in these instructions are guidelines for raising children. Prominent in these descriptions of the ways we are to live, observing God’s laws and celebrating his deeds for us, is the idea that as our children watch and wonder about our actions, opportunities are created for us to repeat the stories, to share the ways in which God has moved for us. Sharing the stories is, without a doubt, vital to our own faith growth and to the development of our children’s belief in God.

And yet, I can’t help but think that our everyday actions – what we say and do, how we treat others, how we respond in times of stress and worry, how we use our time and talent and treasure – are painting an absolutely clear picture of how to live. Do we reflect God’s truth in our daily life, in ways that would make it easy for our children to see and imitate? As a community of God’s people, do we provide an image of God’s love for the children among us?

As the novelist and social critic James Baldwin said, “Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.” If, as science, psychology, and our own experience tell us, children learn by observation and imitation, let’s consider the models we give them. An anonymous quote suggests: “Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate.”



“Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate.”

– Robin Pyles

Caring Notes

“Be still and know that I am God.”

– Psalm 46: 10

During the season of Lent, 40 days before Easter, we are all invited to consider stepping into or stepping up a spiritual practice. We may choose to engage in centering prayer, walking a labyrinth, reading scripture, or committing to a set time for daily prayer. Some practices involve silence; all require our slowing down to draw closer to God.

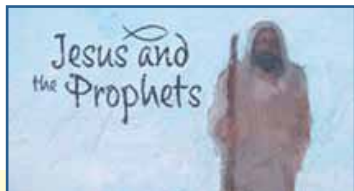
If you want to tap into technology, *Presbyterians Today* suggests using apps such as Pray as You Go, which draws on Ignatian spirituality and gives folks material to listen to while out for a walk or commuting to work or school. Galbreath Chapel at Westminster Church will be available for dedicated times for quiet meditation during Lent – A Quiet Practice for Lent. Why not take a step this year to find a time for silence and prayer for yourself and others? The idea is not to be perfect in our practice; the idea is to come openly before God.

Our private prayers open us up to the presence of God. The intention is important because it is not how successfully we do it or how well we do it. It is the priority that matters. In the time of silent prayer we realize that God is already present in us.

There is not just one way to connect to God. The Lord will meet us in a variety of ways if we are open. The gift comes to us over time as the spiritual practices begin to mold or shape us.

With joy for the journey.

– Louise Rogers



The Presbyterians Today 2018 Lenten Devotional, Jesus and the Prophets, will be available at Westminster Church at the beginning of February.

A Quiet Practice for Lent

The season of Lent is the Christian season of preparation leading up to Easter. While some people make it a practice to “give something up for Lent,” this year you are invited to add something: add a time of prayer.

You are invited to stop by Westminster’s Galbreath Chapel for a time of quiet. You simply pray silently for as long as you like. There will be quiet music and candles, and some resources to guide and inspire you. Your soul will be rested; your life will be centered on the Lord.

If you spend five or ten minutes – great! If you can’t be there, you can practice silent prayer wherever you happen to be and know that other Westminster folk are praying too. Come any time during the hour.

Peace for Our Lives – Tues., February 20, 7:00 p.m.
Wed., February 21, 11:00 a.m.

Peace for Our Homes – Tues., February 27, 7:00 p.m.
Wed., February 28, 11:00 a.m.

Peace for Our World – Tues., March 6, 7:00 p.m.
Wed., March 7, 11:00 a.m.

Questions? Contact Louise Rogers or Nana Wilson.

Westminster Book Group

Wednesday, February 28
noon – 1:15 p.m.

The Westminster Book Group will meet next on Wednesday, February 28, at noon in the Yahweh Café. We will be discussing *Home* by Toni Morrison. We invite you to bring a brown bag lunch and join us.

Frank is a modern Odysseus returning to a 1950s America mined with lethal pitfalls for an unwary black man. As he journeys to his native Georgia in search of Cee, it becomes clear that their troubles began well before their wartime separation. Together, they return to their rural hometown of Lotus, where buried secrets are unearthed and where Frank learns at last what it means to be a man, what it takes to heal, and – above all – what it means to come home.

– Amazon

You are invited to a six-week class hosted by Kerry O'Donnell that teaches us how to better understand and have compassion for ourselves and others, particularly in conflict situations, and to begin learning how to manage reactivity.

The Spiritual Dimensions of Conflict

Thursdays, February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Southminster Presbyterian Church
799 Washington Road**

Cost: \$40.00 (payable to SPC)

**RSVP: by February 1 to Pastor Sharon Stewart at sharon@spchurch.org
or Fred Barnes at fred@spchurch.org.**

God has created each of us with unique personalities; we have our own ways of expressing our feelings and experiences. We each have thoughts, dreams, memories, and plans that are unique to us. There are patterns to the structure of our personalities which are formed at a young age.

The class structure will include "The Essential Enneagram," written by Dr. David Daniels. Our host is Kerry O'Donnell, M.A., a teacher for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, and the former President of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund and Falk Foundations. She facilitates dialogues between violent crime victims and offenders through the office of the Victim Advocate in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Kerry is a certified Enneagram teacher and coach, conflict management coach, Somatic Experiencing practitioner, and Society for Human Resource Management Senior Certified Personnel.

Sponsored by Southminster Presbyterian Church's Spiritual Nurture & Stephen Ministry and Westminster Presbyterian Church's Adult Spiritual Development Ministry.



Kerry O'Donnell
M.A., SHRM-SCP, EPC, SEP

"The Enneagram tells it 'like it is.' And our healing and maturing always begin with our 'acknowledging what's there.' As a 'mirror for the confessional,' it makes us aware of blocks and abysses that enslave us..."

— Richard Rohr, Franciscan Priest and Author

Rise Against Hunger

Volunteer to help on Saturday,
February 10

Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable. When we volunteer with RAH to package meals, we don't usually think about the United States as being in need of their help. But, during our hurricane season RAH was here working in the United States, responding quickly and effectively in the areas hit hardest by the natural disasters.

After Hurricane Irma, RAH distributed more than 3,400 meals in Jacksonville, Florida, to serve over 300 volunteers clearing debris and restoring a sense of normalcy to those affected by Irma. In Haiti, RAH partner St. Andre's utilized 5,400 RAH meals to provide one meal per day for about 200 people. In the Dominican Republic, CitiHope pledged to distribute 400 boxes of RAH meals to affected communities on the northern coast of the country. RAH airlifted 64,000 meals to the St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association for distribution to nearly 300 vulnerable families on the island of St. Maarten.

After Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast, RAH provided 1,400 hygiene kits and 300 flood buckets in Port Arthur, Texas. In collaboration with Adventist Community Services, RAH provided 20,000 protein bars and 10,000 units of hand sanitizer at distribution centers in Houston. They shared their Houston warehouse space with other relief agencies for storage of critical and life-saving supplies. Overall, Rise Against Hunger supported more than 11,000 people in Harvey's wake.

You too can be a part of this good work. Please sign up now to work a shift at Westminster, packaging meals with Rise Against Hunger (previously Stop Hunger Now) on Saturday, February 10.

Go to our website to register online for a shift.



Safety and Self Defense Workshop

for girls ten years and older and an adult woman in their life

Presented by Ruling Our Experiences (ROX) Inc.



ROX currently operates programs in nearly 150 schools and community organizations throughout the United States. Their mission is to equip girls with the information and skills needed to live healthy, independent, productive, and violence free lives.

The workshop will be led by Dr. Sibyl West, a ROX staff member who is a certified woman's self-defense instructor and has experience teaching self-defense to girls and women. This safe, female-only environment allows participants to explore myths and facts about violence; learn emotional, verbal, and physical strategies for staying safe; and experience their own strength and confidence in a supportive setting.

This workshop is designed for girls ten years and older and an adult woman in their life. Join us. Bring your mom, aunt, grandma, daughters, granddaughter, or a friend – and wear comfortable clothes.

Saturday, February 24

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WROC (gym)

Cost: \$25 per couple

Space is limited to ten couples.

Join us for these WROC classes that are geared toward finding relief for achy joints and improving balance and bone strength.

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 Arthritis Foundation Exercise 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.

March 5 – April 23

Mondays: 9:30 – 10:20 a.m.

Cost: \$40

AND/OR

March 7 – April 25

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Cost: \$40

Strong Bodies – Strong Bones (55+ friendly)

Exercise plays a critical role in building and maintaining bone strength. Exercise Physiologist Anne Brucker presents a gentle, joint friendly OsteoDynamic program that strengthens the spine, rebuilds bone, teaches balance, and reduces fractures. Participants may choose to stand or sit. Please bring a pair of light hand weights (2 to 3 lbs.) to class.

March 7 – April 25

Wednesdays: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

Cost: \$40

Tai Chi (55+ friendly)

Energize your muscles, refresh your spirit, increase your blood flow, stimulate your mind, and regain youthful balance and agility through the gentle flowing motion of Tai Chi. This ancient Sun Style form is performed in a wavelike rhythm that brings harmony to breath and gentle movement. It is safe and soothing for fatigued muscles or arthritic joints. No special clothing required.

March 7 – April 25

Wednesdays: 11:15 a.m. – noon

Cost: \$40

Chatham Baroque at Westminster

Bach and the Trio Sonata

Friday, February 9
7:30 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel

Chatham Baroque unveils their own inventive arrangements of J.S. Bach's famous organ trios, orchestrating them for violin, recorder, viola da gamba, theorbo, and keyboard. With guests Anne Timberlake, recorder, and Justin Wallace, historical keyboards.

It's an evening to enjoy some of Bach's most melodious music played on a variety of beautiful instruments that flourished in Bach's world.

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.

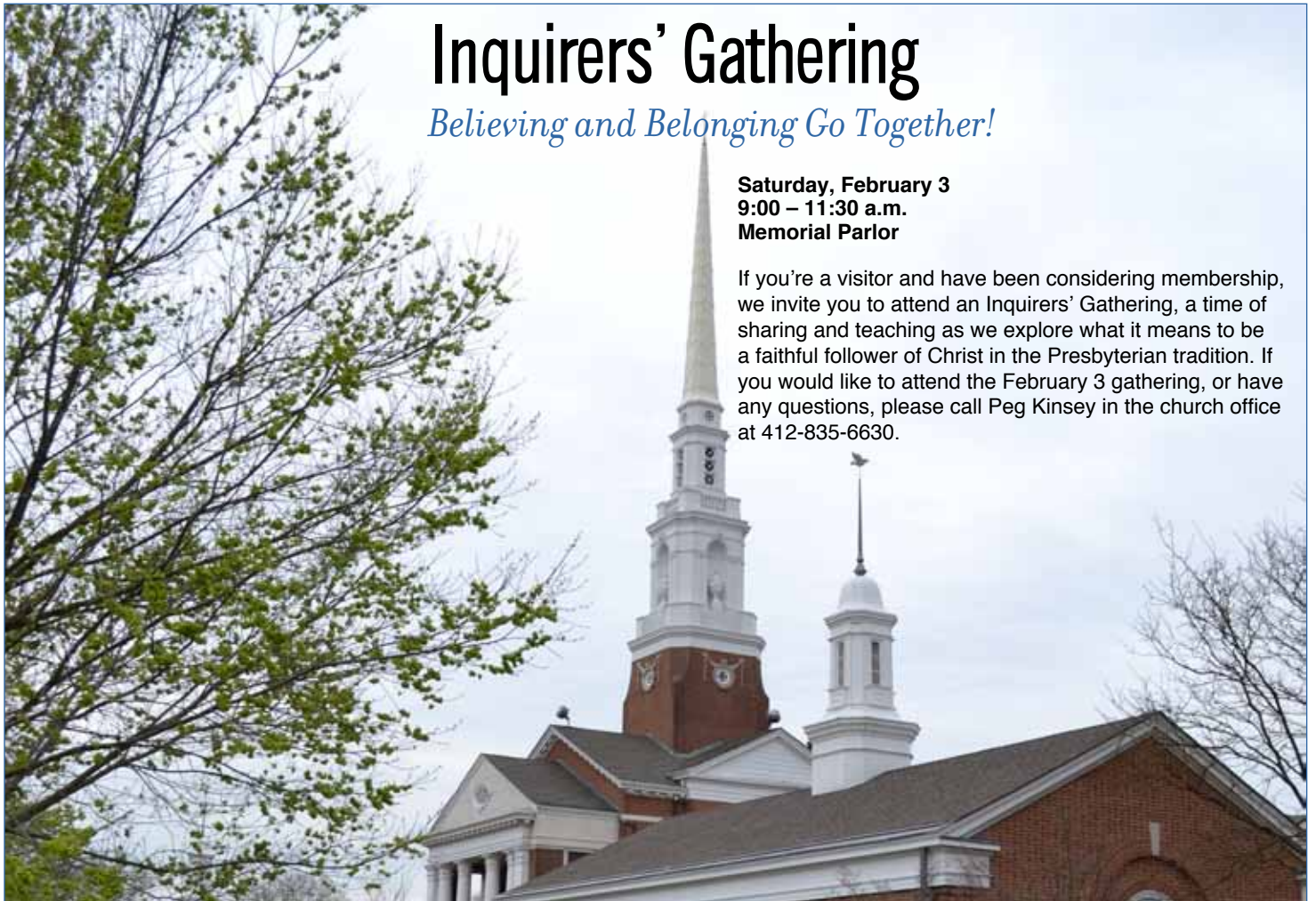


Inquirers' Gathering

Believing and Belonging Go Together!

Saturday, February 3
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Memorial Parlor

If you're a visitor and have been considering membership, we invite you to attend an Inquirers' Gathering, a time of sharing and teaching as we explore what it means to be a faithful follower of Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. If you would like to attend the February 3 gathering, or have any questions, please call Peg Kinsey in the church office at 412-835-6630.



What the Deacons Do

Treats for Troops

The deacons were busy this past December preparing homemade cookies and candies for our troops serving abroad. Our goal was to give those who serve so bravely a little piece of home. We packaged and sent five boxes of goodies, including beautiful cards created by Sunday school students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Treasures for Troops

We are all very excited about Treasures for Troops, a Deacon-sponsored project that will begin in February. We'll be collecting small personal items for our troops who are being deployed to various places in the Middle East. Items such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and lip balm are in great need. One special requirement for liquids is that **nothing can be more than 8 ounces**, and travel-size products would be perfect! Special goodies include granola bars, small boxes of raisins, and decks of cards.

On each Sunday in February, we'll gather these "treasures" in our camouflage boxes, before and after all services in the north entry and by the Bridge. We would also be happy to accept checks to help with the postage. You may make checks payable to Westminster Church with "Treasures for Troops" in the memo box. Last year, we packed and sent 25 boxes to our troops, due to your generosity. Thank you in advance for helping us to make Treasures for Troops another Westminster success.

"Look to each other's interest and not merely your own."

—Philippians 2:4



Deaths

Vivian Casperson

December 17

Katherine Hathaway

January 5

Byron Smith

January 7

Richard "Dick" Pitcock

January 16



Blood Drive

Sunday, February 18

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 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)
- Weight 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 medical questions, please call the 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, using sponsor code G0010171
- Sign-up tables before or after worship services on February 4 and 11
- 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.

Session Update

The annual joint meeting of Session and the Board of Deacons, scheduled for January 13, was canceled on account of the weather. Session met the following Monday, during its regular time, and welcomed nine elders to the class of 2020.

In December, Session commissioned Horizons Stewardship to evaluate the feasibility of a new campaign to cover approximately \$2.4 million in capital restoration and improvements over ten years, with the funds raised in excess of that amount to be divided between mission outreach and the endowment fund. A representative of Horizons Stewardship presented the positive findings of his study, and Session voted to proceed with the campaign this spring.

Jim Gilchrist reported, on behalf of the Personnel Commission, that Mandy Thomas will serve as Westminster's new project manager, half time, beginning February 1. Mandy brings 20 years of professional experience in industry and has a master's degree in project management. In addition, Laura Baumann will serve as a part time youth ministry intern for the remainder of 2018, also beginning February 1.

Per Capita

Please remember to forward your 2018 per capita apportionment to the Finance Office. **The amount set by Pittsburgh Presbytery for 2018 is \$33.00 per member.** Each year Westminster must send the amount set for the year to the presbytery **for each active member of our church.** For those members who do not send in their per capita apportionment, we must make up the difference from our operating budget. In 2017 we had to make up approximately \$44,000 in per capita shortfall. For those of you receiving offering envelopes, there is an envelope inside each box for the per capita apportionment. For those of you who have elected not to receive offering envelopes, please note "2018 Per Capita" on the memo line of your check. If you have any questions regarding this apportionment, please contact David Reiter, church business administrator, at 412-835-6630x201 or reiter@westminster-church.org. **Thank you.**



Easter Flowers

Spring and Easter are coming!

The Chancel Guild is accepting memorial/honoree contributions for Easter flowers. Make your check payable to the **Chancel Guild** and mail to Peg Kinsey at the church office or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning with your form. Your contribution must be received by **Monday, March 26, 2018**, so your gift can be listed in the Easter bulletin.

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

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

In memory In honor

Name of memorial/honoree (PLEASE PRINT)

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

My name _____

Please return this form to Peg Kinsey in the church office by **Monday, March 26.**





**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Pittsburgh, PA 15241
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Create in me a *clean heart*, O God,
and put a *new and right spirit* within me.

Do not cast me away from *your presence*,
and do not take your *holy spirit* from me.

Restore to me the *joy of your salvation*,
and sustain in me a *willing spirit*.

– Psalm 51:10-12