



# THE SPARE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

## Cut Flowers

With the arrival of spring there are flowers everywhere, and, being inclined to metaphor, I've found myself thinking about flowers lately.

Growing up, I lived near several miles of woodlands, and I often took long walks in the woods. Deep in some shaded setting I'd find exotic specimens of flowers, and sometimes I would cut a few and bring them home. The flowers looked nearly as good in a vase as they did in the woods – but only for a few days. Then, invariably, they would begin to droop and wither and finally shrivel up, until whatever beauty they had was little more than a memory.

I pondered all this in my youth and wrote some bad poetry about how things and people need to be enjoyed in the settings where they belong. Often, what thrives in one environment is all wrong somewhere else. That's still true, of course, but lately I've had another metaphor in mind.

It occurs to me that some of us human beings are like cut flowers. We cut ourselves off from the things that feed our souls, but we tell ourselves it doesn't matter because our lives look almost as good now, free from various attachments, as they did when we were rooted in the soil.

At one level, it's the ordinary things – eating right, exercising, staying in touch with friends – that we cut off and barely notice for a while, until a vague sense comes over us that something is missing. But at a deeper level, we can cut ourselves off from God without even realizing it. We might never stop believing in God, and keep showing up in church more or less frequently, only to discover after a time that religion itself has become more like a vase than the rich soil we need to feed our faith.

What I've learned from flowers is that it can be hard to tell when we've been cut off, at least for a while. Freshly cut flowers look like the ones in the ground, even better if they're artfully arranged, and some can last a fairly long time in a vase. People can go quite



a while without seriously praying to God, or reading the Bible, or seeking God's guidance, or giving much thought to the meaning and purpose and priorities of life. In our day, busy schedules and unlimited entertainment act like those little packets of powder that come with cut flowers to make them look fresh longer.

It's hard to tell the difference, in the short run, between cut flowers and those that remain deeply rooted. They look the same for a while. But sometimes, when I empty out a vase, I remember what Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from me you can do nothing." And it occurs to me once again that looks can be deceiving.

*Jim Gilchrist*

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 REV. LOUISE ROGERS, *Associate Pastor*  
*for Congregational Care*  
 REV. JASON FREYER, *Associate Pastor*  
*for the Bridge, Youth & Media*

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PEG KINSEY

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**CARE ASSOCIATE**

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*Family Ministry*  
 DEBB EGLI, *Assistant Director of Children's and*  
*Family Ministry*  
 ED SUTTER, *Director of Middle School Ministry &*  
*Family Counseling*  
 CASSANDRA MILLIS, *Assistant Director of Youth &*  
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 AMY SANDERS, *Administrative Assistant*

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CHARLEY RICHARDSON, *Property Manager*

**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY**

JAN BAUMANN, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
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412-835-2906

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

412-835-9450

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Read the *Spire* online at:  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)

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

**The Bridge  
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 Sundays
 9:45 a.m.
 WROC

\* 8:30 a.m. worship moves to the courtyard for the summer beginning Sunday, June 3.

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

# Forward in Faith Update

In this house, beyond this house, and for the future, Forward in Faith was launched in April to raise at least \$3 million. From the first dollar received, 80% will go to 10 years of property renovations and repairs, and 10% will go each to mission and the endowment. Funds in excess of \$3.5 million will be divided equally between outreach and the endowment. Chairpersons Linda and Harry Serene and Deborah and Mike Lee led the charge to communicate the importance of this effort, backed by a staff team to prepare materials and communications.



FORWARD IN FAITH

Through a series of three sermons in late April and early May, Jim Gilchrist reflected on Gratitude, Mission, and Legacy, and accompanying videos were prepared using those themes. An introductory vision brochure and a more detailed booklet were mailed to our entire membership. A church dinner was held on May 6 that about 130 members attended to learn more and ask questions of the leadership team. Finally, commitment card mailings went out following the same pattern we use for stewardship in the fall.

The campaign has been very successful so far! Between six extremely generous lead gifts and the church officers, by early May we had more than \$1.3 million committed. For context, ten years ago, for the New Cornfield campaign a foundation provided a single \$1 million gift, with the remaining \$2.3 million pledged from the rest of the membership. Prior to Commitment Sunday on May 20 we had gifts exceeding \$1.4 million and the pledges are still arriving. It is such a joy to share our gifts freely and show our thanks to God by moving forward in faith together.

The next step is Celebration Sunday, June 24, where we will announce the final total of our pledged giving. We are planning a small celebration in the north entry following each service. We hope you will be able to join us!

**Upcoming Events**

**10 JUN** Believe Concert  
3:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary

**14 JUN** Organ Summer begins  
5:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary

**18-22 JUN** Barefoot School

**24 JUN** Forward in Faith Celebration Day

## WESTMINSTER SEMINARS

## SUMMER 2018

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

June Series – Fellowship Hall

July Series – Galbreath Chapel

*June Series**with Jim Gilchrist*

## Truth Decay

Pilate famously asked Jesus, “What is truth?” Some say we live in a “post-truth” world. Jesus says, “The truth will make you free.” We’ll talk about what truth is, and why it matters.

## June 3

## Truth Decay

Why the very idea of truth is under attack, and why we need to fight truth decay

## June 10

## Field Guide to Fallacies

Learning to spot lies, half-truths, and misleading claims

## June 17

## Tribes and Truthiness

How lesser loyalties can blind us to the truth

## June 24

## Truth and Freedom

Our souls, our relationships, our country, and the world need truth

**The seminars will not meet on July 1.**

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. – Luke 4:18*

## July Series:

*Summer Discussions Sponsored by the Westminster Peace & Justice Group*

## Bringing Good News to the Poor: Poverty in the U.S.

In a synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus began his ministry, quoting from Isaiah, “to bring good news to the poor.” These words reflect his life and our calling as Christians. We are moved when we see people in need, and we long to obey Jesus’ call on our lives, but we have many questions. Who are the poor? What are the causes of poverty? What can we do that will really change things?

**July 8 – Faces of the Poor:  
Who Is Poor in the U.S. Today?**

*Westminster Peace and Justice Group*

What do we know about poverty in the U.S. today? What are the measures used to provide assistance? How is poverty related to race, gender, and education? What about income inequality? Who are the working poor? What about food security, housing instability, school quality? All these questions can paralyze us before we even begin. This session will give us a foundation for the rest of the series.

**July 15 – Causes of Poverty:  
A Tangled Web**

*Tammy Thompson, Director of Circles Greater Pittsburgh, Poverty Expert, Executive Producer*

This session will explore the difficulties poor people have with employment, transportation, housing, and other aspects of life, and how all of these can work together to keep poor people poor. Tammy grew up in poverty, and she knows the complications of poverty firsthand. Working in the nonprofit sector as a credit counselor, financial education instructor, and program developer, Tammy is using her experience of generational poverty to help others address their own financial difficulties, including those that specifically affect African American communities.

**July 22 – “This Is My House”:  
Defeating Poverty One Family at a Time**  
*Rev. Michael Stanton, Executive Director, Open Hand Ministries*

A Pittsburgh Theological Seminary graduate, Rev. Stanton works through three partner churches – East Liberty Presbyterian, The Open Door Church, and Valley View Presbyterian – to provide disadvantaged families the opportunity for affordable homeownership. Michael’s calling is to address the physical, social, and spiritual needs of low- to moderate-income families in Garfield and East Liberty. The nonprofit is called “Open Hand” because Michael sees it as “a radical declaration of the Gospel,” an effort to provide opportunities, especially affordable housing, to those who haven’t been afforded them by society.

**July 29 – Shaping Public Policy to  
Serve the Poor**

*Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister for Christian Associates*

Churches do amazing work in direct service to poor people, but many of us are unclear about the role that public policy changes can have in improving the lives of people in poverty, and even less clear on how to become involved. The Rev. Liddy Barlow will show us that working for changes in public policy is important for Christians, and will highlight ways in which that is happening now. She has been a key organizer of interfaith services mourning lives lost at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, SC, standing against bigotry after the demonstrations in Charlottesville, VA, and in support of immigrants.



A certain, unnamed member of our congregation and I have been getting into a series of Facebook debates lately. These are not the typical mud-slinging, name-calling debates centered around politics or religion that have so dominated the social media landscape of late. Instead, this back and forth between us has been about whether or not winter, with all of its snow and ice and cold, is a season to be enjoyed or loathed. Spoiler alert: it's the latter.

Sure, winter is a magical time when it first arrives. When that first blanket of snow hits, and the air is quiet and still, you feel like you're standing in the doorway of the wardrobe looking out at Narnia. I get that. But that feeling lasts only about 20 minutes for me, and then the rest of winter is me not being able to ride my bike and scared of driving my car. No thanks.

I'd rather have summer. I'd rather have days at the pool, or at the beach, or taking a family trip to Kennywood. I'd rather have the birds chirping in the air than the quiet stillness of snow. I'd rather be comfortable in a T-shirt and shorts than having to do my best imitation of a mountain climber to go get a gallon of milk. (Okay, I have twins. Two gallons.)

As a youth pastor, my profession is in many ways centered around the school calendar, so summer also represents a deep breath of sorts. Our regular Wednesday night programming slows down. We start to dream about what we might want to do next year with themes and lessons. We keep ourselves busy, but with things like summer mission trips and camps and outdoor activities. It's a moment to catch my breath, to re-center, to change things up.

It turns out, we're meant to have one of those deep breaths every seven days. God commanded us to keep ourselves from being too busy, to give ourselves at least one day a week where we sit back and remember how much good God has done for us.

Interestingly enough, on the particular day I write this article, at least three people have complained to me about how busy we are as a culture. Everyone has at least three sporting teams to keep up with, or has to work late at the office, or feels like they can't keep up with the housework at home, or they have two pairs of diapers to change at once. We run ourselves into the ground, and what's worse, we're proud of it. Listen to two people talking about how busy they are, and you'll almost hear a twinge of bragging: "Oh yeah? Well, I had six meetings that day!" It's almost like we're addicted to busy.

I know we can't all take a summer break and completely change our work load. I know we can't all take extensive patches of time off. But what does it look like to reclaim what God demands of us in Exodus 20, to take time to pause, to reflect, and to remember? We might thank God for the family that we've been blessed with. We might thank God for getting us through a difficult situation. We might thank God for the sunshine and the warm weather. We might even, if in the proper mood, thank God for snowfall. Maybe.

So I encourage you to intentionally set aside some time to do that. My calendar rules my life in a way that I'm not proud of, so for this to have any chance of success I need to block out time intentionally. When people ask to meet at these mini-Sabbaths, I say "Oh, I can't. I have an appointment." No one ever seems to doubt that. Plus, when it's on the calendar, I might not be as tempted to use that time for something else, for further busyness. Block out some time, and then pay attention to what God wants to say to you. What has God done for you lately? How have you felt God's love?

I feel like this is how I end almost every June *Spire* article, but let's take a break. Because come September, we've got some Holy trouble to get into!

See you then!

– Jason Freyer

## BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

The phrase “climb the corporate ladder” has been driving me bonkers recently. I’ve never worked in the corporate world, but I’d imagine that the metaphor breaks down even in that very setting. And, to be honest, I’m okay with metaphors breaking down. They all do sooner or later. Yet even in their shortcomings, metaphors are very helpful when we need to wrap our minds around a concept. Apparently, somewhere along the way someone said something like “That person is really climbing the corporate ladder.” And everyone else thought to themselves, “Yep. I get it.”

Here’s what drives me bonkers about that particular phrase: because metaphors are so helpful in understanding just about any topic, it’s also really easy to carry them too far. On an unconscious level, I think we’ve carried this one too far.

Life does not have a “ladder” of success; there is no straight line of progress. We’ve pulled it way out of context to other areas of our lives and, in the pursuit of progress, have sought out “ladders” to climb – straight up, no deviations. But you know just as well as I do that life is full of lefts, rights, and downs. We all know this, but that won’t make it any easier to convince any one of us that a downward shift, even a temporary one, could be a good thing.

But what if we did believe it? What would we change, or what would we do differently, if we believed that to take our foot off the gas, to make an intentional shift in our direction, could be the better, healthier decision toward “success”? A few months back I wrote about the “boiling frog” and the notion that we can become so accustomed to something (even something damaging) that we simply stay the course, no matter the consequence. I wonder if any of us have ever fought for the next rung on the ladder while ignoring the fact that we’re boiling alive (talk about mixing metaphors!).

Part of this has to do with Sabbath. We need to see the value in rest (this is the pot calling the kettle black) and we need to be okay when the pace slows down every once in a while. Imagine if there were a few verses in the book of Genesis that read, “And on the seventh day, God, having reviewed his organization’s growth chart, decided that he must capitalize on the previous quarter’s momentum.” Laughable, right?

So why do we ignore God’s example and constantly seek more?

If you read that question and thought to yourself, “Because I must, or I’ll get overlooked or left behind,” then perhaps it may be time to consider a new approach to your ladder. Left, right, or down. What if progress was a step back, a step down, a shift? What if the life you’ve been called to live was three rungs back?

No life has ever moved in a perfectly straight line. You don’t need a growth chart to tell you that. Just take a look at the life behind you so far. Ups, downs, lefts, and rights. They’re all there. This may be a good summer project for you. What would your life look like if you approached the “ladder” from a different perspective?

– Ed Sutter



## GLIMPSE OF MY WORLD

When we mention that we have three children in college, the usual response is related to the financial cost. Something along the lines of “Whew! How in the world can you manage to afford that?” While it’s definitely true that there are, shall we say, certain financial challenges to the situation, in some ways paying for it isn’t the most costly part of the experience.

You see, it turns out that an incredible amount of stuff is apparently required in order to sustain (feed, clothe, and supply) even one college student. If you have experienced the joy of moving your student to and from their campus housing, you know what I mean. In our house, it means all of that, times three. We have just completed the spring migration of packing, hauling, unpacking what has felt like tons of stuff, and we now have stuff everywhere. Boxes and bundles are in every room, awaiting the next steps: all of it seems to need to be laundered, and then sorted into what has to be available for use this summer, and what can be packed away safely, ready for the fall return to school. It’s a big project – and it will take days of work to complete.

As we were unloading the belongings of the third – and final – child today, a thought crossed my mind: “No wonder God made a ‘you can’t take it with you’ rule for entry into heaven.” Our house is bursting at the seams with stuff for only three young adults. What

a horrible mess it would be, if we each arrived dragging along a small mountain of cases and bags full of our earthly stuff!

Instead, Jesus tells us to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:20-21, NIV). Our limited physical minds struggle with what he might have meant. What would treasures or rewards in heaven look like, anyway?

Merriam-Webster defines the verb “to treasure” as “to hold or keep as precious, to cherish or prize.” I wonder if Jesus’ statement works in reverse. What if Jesus had ended his thought this way, “For where your heart is, there will your treasure be also”?

What if our relationship with Jesus was the most important thing in our hearts and minds? As we cherished that relationship, and lived fully into it, would our care of the others in our world be as natural, as automatic, as our care for ourselves and those we love? And if we loved God with all our hearts, and loved others as ourselves, would the stuff that was really important to us, our real treasures, already be piling up, waiting for us, in heaven?

I think it might be. And if heavenly treasures don’t have to be packed and moved, laundered and re-packed, then I’m ready to be all in!

– Robin Pyles

*“Store up for yourselves  
treasures in heaven ...  
For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also”*

*Matthew 6:20-21*



# Sunday School

This year's Sunday school has ended, and what a year it has been learning about Jesus and his love for us! Through the telling and acting out of Bible stories, as well as crafts and games, the children gained insight into the Word of God and how we should follow God's plan for us.

I would like to thank all the teachers and teacher's assistants for their dedication to our children. They were asked why they teach/taught Sunday school. I would like to share their comments with you:

*"Love the precious look on their face when they are able to connect one lesson to another."*

*"It is a good way to give back to the church that built me."*

*"I believe that their knowledge of the Bible and the stories about the life of Jesus resulted in a sense of compassion for others."*

*"I've been so grateful for the wonderful children's programs here at Westminster for my own children and feel called to give back and pay forward."*

*"It brings me joy to share the Good News."*

*"It was a fun way to help out our church family. Loved the kids' energy. Each Sunday was fulfilling because of each child we served."*

*"I teach in order to share my love of my Lord and Savior and want children to know what it is to be part of God's family."*

*"I value religious education and feel it is important that children are introduced to the love of God at an early age."*

*"It is something I can do with my daughter and I love the children."*

*"I enjoy building relationships with the children, seeing them learn and grow in their faith."*

*"It is a good way to get to know the families at Westminster and the children put a smile on my face."*

*"It has been so much fun seeing the kids grow and learn the Bible stories over the years, meeting kids I would not have otherwise known, and spending time with my son."*

*"To share lessons from the Bible with our younger church family members, to see their wonder and enthusiasm for the amazing things God has done for us."*

*"I knew I wanted to serve and try to give back what I was getting from Westminster."*

*"What I love most is knowing that the kiddos I work with are teaching me as much as I am teaching them."*

We are looking forward to next year as we continue to join the children on their journey of faith.

– Debb Egli

# Step into Summer Picnics

**Wednesdays**  
**July 11, 18, 25, and August 1**  
**5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Everyone, of all ages, is invited to gather for an easy, relaxed summertime evening together.

On four Wednesdays this summer, enjoy fellowship, dinner, and more.



## Step Up ...

**For dinner together!** No shopping, no planning, no cooking, no clean up – we'll provide the meal. Adults and children will eat together in Fellowship Hall for a suggested donation.

## Step Into ...

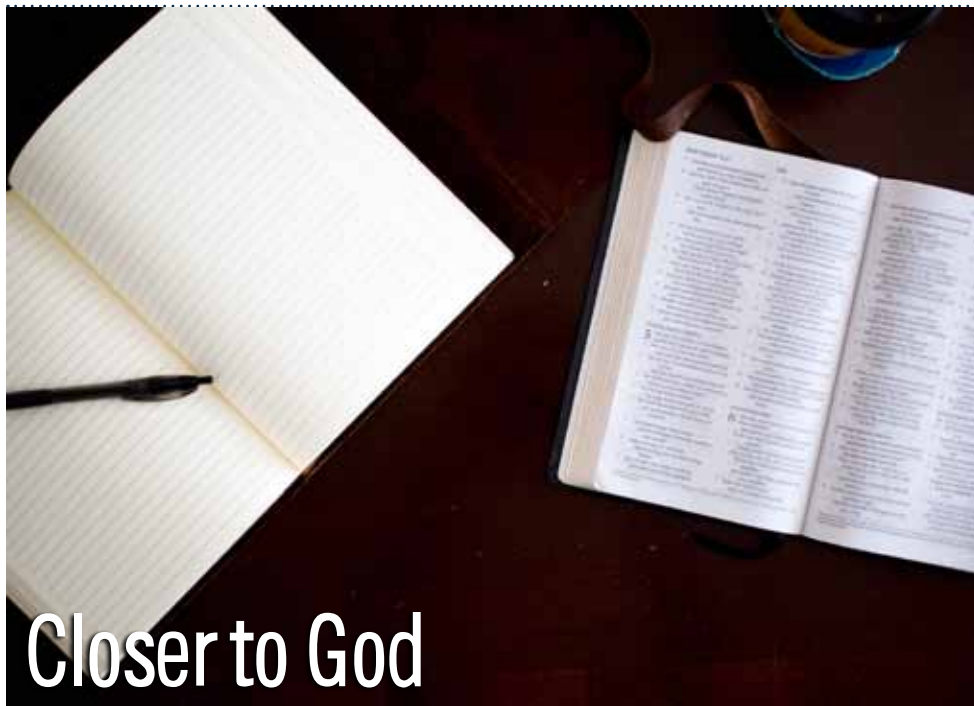
**God's word together!** No preparation, no reading required. For the adults, Pastor Louise Rogers will lead an interactive, vibrant study of God's word to you, for your life. For the children, Robin Pyles will lead a short, active experience of a Bible story, followed by free play on the playground (or games in the WROC, depending on the weather).

## Step Out ...

**For a relaxing evening with our church family.** An easy way to wrap up a summer day.

For more information, please contact Pastor Louise Rogers at [rogers@westminster-church.org](mailto:rogers@westminster-church.org) or Robin Pyles at [pyles@westminster-church.org](mailto:pyles@westminster-church.org).





# Closer to God

It's that time of year again: time to go through drawers and closets, sorting out, downsizing, and organizing. It's something that I do each year as the good weather comes when I would rather be outside enjoying God's creation on our deck – the birds, my gardens, on my bike...

As I was going through one bin, I came across one of my journals from several years ago. I stopped sorting for a while and sat down to read some of the things that I had written. As I read, I realized how close it drew me to God as I shared my deepest feelings and thoughts with the Lord. God wants us to draw near. He wants us to walk closely, daily with him, as our constant companion and helper.

One way for us to draw closer to the Lord is to give God our time for honest reflection. Writing has the power to help us see the beauty of God at work in our life experiences. Journaling is a practice that can be used as a written prayer to God. If you haven't tried journaling, why not give it a try this summer? You might be wondering, "What will I write?" But once you start, you'll be surprised at how quickly you'll have filled an entire page.

Here are a few prompts to get you started:

- How are you feeling?
- Are you angry about something? Talk to God about it.
- Are you thankful for something? Thank God.

- Are you sad? Tell God what is making you feel that way.
- Are you struggling? Ask God to help you.
- Praise God for what he's doing in your life.
- Tell God that you love him.
- Take time to be with God and get to know him better as you honestly share your feelings.

*"Be still, and know that I am God!"*  
**Psalm 46:10a** (NRSV)

*"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him."*  
**Ephesians 1:17** (NRSV)

When you look back through your journals, as I did when I was sorting things out, you'll be amazed at how God has been working in your life.

*"We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!"*  
**1 Corinthians 13:12** (MSG)

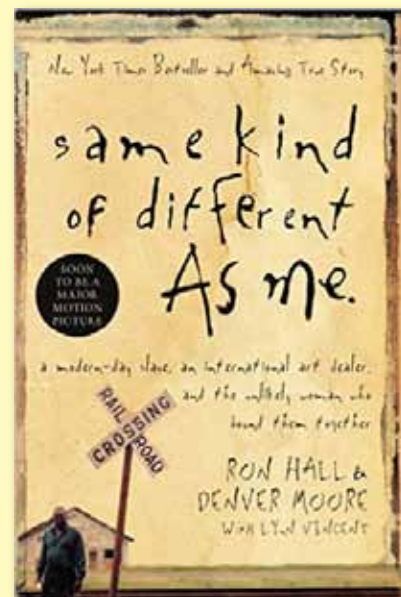
Writing with joy,  
 Louise

# Westminster Book Group

The Westminster Book Group is taking a summer break, but you may want to add our September book to your list for summer reading. On Wednesday, September 26, from noon to 1:15 p.m., we will discuss *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall.

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

We wish you enjoyable summer reading!



MUSIC & ARTS SERIES

**Believe**

**Sunday, June 10**  
**3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Freewill offering

Please plan to join us on June 10 for a lighthearted program of vocal music by Believe. The selections range from Gregorian chant (well, sort of) to Weird Al Yankovic, with spirituals, Gershwin, and Pentatonix along the way.

Believe is a volunteer men's vocal ensemble comprised of members and frequent guest singers of the Christ United Methodist Church Chancel Choir. Now in its 15th season, Believe continues to enhance numerous CUMC services and concerts with its performances. The group has also sung at other local churches and at a variety of other venues, including Pittsburgh's Station Square and such communities as Providence Point, Friendship Village, Concordia, and Longwood in Oakmont.



Members include basses John Heisey, Jeff Karsh, and Jeff Nelson, and tenors George Manos, Jeff Mazur, and Rich Williams. Debbie Schneider provides piano accompaniment. The June 10 program will also feature flutist Debbie Vavrek.

WESTMINSTER  
**ORGAN**  
 summer

2020

**Musical Refreshment on Thursdays**

June 14 – July 19

Westminster Organ Summer returns for its eighth season beginning June 14. This series of six free organ concerts coincides with the Upper St. Clair Farmers' Market. On Thursday afternoons, nourish your spirit and your body with great music and fresh food.

At 5:00 p.m., come to the cool sanctuary and enjoy 30 minutes of exciting organ music played by outstanding performers with ties to Pittsburgh. The organists, each in a distinctive way, will showcase the Austin organ's almost boundless combinations of sound. The programs will feature an appealing variety of sacred and secular music.

These free, casual concerts are fun for all ages. The organ console will be placed in the middle of the chancel so that the audience can watch the organist's flying feet and hands. After the concert you are welcome to take a close look at the organ. The console and the pipes are fascinating to examine, especially for children. Plan to come and invite friends for refreshing entertainment.

*June 14*  
**Nicholas Capozzoli**  
 McGill University  
 Christ Church Cathedral,  
 Montreal

*June 21*  
**Jon Tyillian**  
 Calvary Episcopal Church

*June 28*  
**Ethan LaPlaca**

*July 5*  
**Gail Henry**  
 Memorial Park Church

*July 12*  
**Jim Burns**  
 Westminster Presbyterian  
 Church

*July 19*  
**Daniel Ficarrì**  
 The Juilliard School

*Organ Summer is a musical outreach to the community sponsored by the Music & Arts Series of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the generosity of the performers. All organists donate their time and talent; a freewill offering defrays their expenses.*

## Summer Happenings at the WROC

# for KIDS

### Eco Explorers Summer Camp: Area 51 Lab

(for boys and girls in grades 1 – 5)

Looking for an awesome summer camp? Join the Eco Explorers for a hands-on forensic science adventure that is out of this world!

Attention secret agents: you have been selected to join our team of investigators and scientists in our secret Area 51 Laboratory! We hope you can lend your expertise in forensic science for a week as we call upon your scientific sleuthing skills to solve a mystery that is out of this world! You see, an unidentified spacecraft has crash-landed on our summer camp campus and we'll need your help reconstructing the wreckage, using our professional tools to study some mysterious evidence, and hunting for other clues to help us solve the case. Oh...and there's the little issue of the mysterious symbols that have been appearing around the lab. And um...the strange virus that seems to be spreading now that this craft has landed here. Can you help us crack the case? With your skills in forensic science, engineering, chemistry, and biology, we are sure you are the right crew for the job!

This summer, you can expect an adventure in hands-on science as a live action mystery! Camp will be led by staff from Eco Explorers.

**Monday - Friday, July 23 – 26**

**9:00 a.m. – noon**

**Cost: \$165 per session for first child in family; \$155 per session for each additional child in family**



### Bricks 4 Kidz Camp

*We learn, we build, we play with LEGO® bricks!*

**Session 1: July 9 – July 13**

**Extreme Ninjas** – Campers will use their imaginations and creativity to dive into the extreme world of ninjas!

**Session 2: July 30 – August 3**

**Galaxy Far Away** – Come experience this stellar journey to a galaxy far away!

**Session 3: August 13 – 17**

**Angry Birdies** – This camp combines learning and creativity with a whole lot of fun!

**Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – noon**

**Cost: \$125 per session for first child in family; \$115 per session for each additional child in family**

### Summer Basketball Skills and Drills Workshop

(for boys and girls ages 7 – 11)

**June 26, 27 & 28**

**10:30 a.m. – noon**

### Introduction to Ballet: Incorporating Faith and Dance!

(For children ages 3 – 5)

**June 2 – 23**

**Saturdays: 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**

**OR July 10 – 31**

**Tuesdays: 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.**



# for ADULTS

### Cycling Group Ride

*Participants must be 16 years of age or older.*

As the weather gets nicer, it's time to enjoy the world from two wheels! If you are interested in doing a weekly road bike group ride, where no one gets dropped or left behind, sign up today! We'll meet at the Tandem Connection on the Montour Trail in Hendersonville each week for a ride on the trails, free of cars! In the first week of August, anyone who is interested may join us for a three-day bikepacking trip on the same trails to Cumberland, MD. Don't have a bike, no problem – rent one at the Tandem Connection.

**Wednesdays, June 20 – August 1**

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Free; registration required.**

**Facilitator: Rev. Jason Freyer, associate pastor for Westminster and bike enthusiast**



### Psalms in the Courtyard

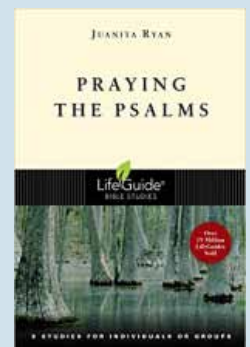
Join us for a summer study in the courtyard led by Pastor Louise Rogers. We'll explore selected psalms to discover how we can deepen our personal devotional lives.

**Thursdays, June 7 – July 12**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**North Courtyard**

**Cost: \$6 includes *Praying the Psalms* study guide**



*What the Deacons Do*

# Extended Communion

I would like to share two beautiful stories from extended communion with two of our church members living in local nursing homes.

On a recent visit to see my friend, who is in the memory unit of an area nursing home, I encountered her disoriented, wandering the halls. She was the author of many books and the leader of a prayer group that I was a part of. I escorted her back to her room, explaining that I had a special gift from church for her. She looked at me with childlike wonder in her eyes. As we sat on her bed, I prepared the elements. She listened intently as I read the scripture and shared the wafer. "Body of Christ, which is broken for you," I said, as she placed the morsel in her mouth. At that moment, I knew that there was a knowing deep in her heart that Christ was with her. We hugged, and I promised to come back soon. I had the feeling of overwhelming joy that I, through this amazing service, was able to share God's love if only for a fleeting moment.

Mandy Thomas also had a beautiful experience. She visited a lovely lady in a local memory unit and prepared and administered the elements for communion. The recipient was not able to utter a single word. As she was preparing to leave, Mandy asked if she might sing "Jesus Loves Me." With no response, she began singing, and to her amazement, she was joined in harmony for the last verse.



Was Jesus present? There was a true connection with the Lord in those rooms. Although it may seem impossible, you can never be too far away from God's love or the family of his church. Extended communion is served by deacons four times per year to those who are unable to make it to church. To obtain more information, please contact Louise Rogers.

– Andrée Jeffrey

## The 223rd General Assembly Meets in St. Louis



On June 16, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will convene in St. Louis, Missouri, for a week of activities: business sessions, committee meetings, an exhibit hall, daily worship services, and mission tours sponsored by the Committee on Local Arrangements.

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It meets biennially in even-numbered years. (It met in Pittsburgh in 2012.) Consisting of commissioners elected by each of its 173 presbyteries, the assembly acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries.

Half of the commissioners are ruling elders, half teaching elders. Few will have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the church's three other governing bodies that provide care and oversight – the session for the local congregation, the presbytery for a group of congregations, and the regional synod for a group of presbyteries.

The General Assembly serves as a symbol of unity for the church. It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, and is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice while ensuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions, which state what we believe. The General Assembly sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies. Perhaps most visibly, it presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community.

For more information, visit <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga/> and follow updates on the PC(USA) website during and after the assembly.

# Congratulations 2018 Graduates

## HIGH SCHOOL

**Bethel Park High School**  
Matthew Thomas Nestler

**Cathedral Preparatory School**  
Alex Douds

**Eden Christian Academy**  
Jonathan (Jon) Cox

**Peters Township High School**  
Garrett Doub  
Kevin Michael Glesky  
Conor Pederson  
Aidan Philip Stopperich  
Jack Underwood  
Will Van Zandt

**Mt. Lebanon High School**  
Bill Burns  
Jackson Ryan Debsk

**Ringgold High School**  
Tyler Long

**South Park High School**  
Alyson Faye Reiter

## Upper St. Clair High School

Jack W. Beisner  
Jonathan Bleier  
Kyrie Graham  
Jack Jameson Kentner  
Abigail Clark Matheny  
Emily Nicole Megonnell  
Marguerite (Maggie) Judith Paul  
Jack Pyckowski  
Jonathan Pyles  
Mark Anthony Reyes  
Rachel Jane Maria Robinson  
Alex Strain  
Matt White

## COLLEGE

Taylor Baker  
Penn State University  
*BS, Business*  
Meghan Elizabeth Canose  
Robert Morris University  
*BS, Nursing*  
Winfield B. Carson V  
Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory  
*BA, Music*

Megan Douds  
Westminster College  
*BA, Psychology*

Joel Hart  
American University  
*BA, Finance*

Hannah Newman  
Penn State University  
*BS, Bio-behavioral Health*

David Forrest Painter  
University of Richmond  
*BS, Biology*

Robin Pyles  
Bethel Seminary  
*MA, Children's & Family Ministry*

Rachel Rex  
Duquesne University  
*BS, Nursing, magna cum laude*

George Rossin  
UCLA, The Anderson School of Business  
*MBA*

Paige Alaina Stopperich  
University of South Carolina  
*BA*

# Scholarship OPPORTUNITIES

## Seminary Students

Westminster Presbyterian Church provides financial scholarship support for church staff or members enrolled or planning to enroll in a Master of Divinity program. Applications are available in the church finance office (412-835-6630).

Please submit completed application by **Friday, June 15, 2018**. Questions may be directed to Dave Reiter in the church finance office.

**Deliver application to:**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Finance Office  
2040 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

## Westminster Education and Service Trust (W.E.S.T.)

Do you need a helping hand with post high school educational costs? The W.E.S.T. Fund has a limited amount of resources available to distribute to Westminster Church students needing some financial assistance. Gifts are often used toward book purchases and similar expenses. Applications are available in the church finance office or receptionist area during normal working hours (412-835-6630).

Undergraduate and/or graduate students are limited to a total of four (4) annual gifts. When completing the application, please explain why you are requesting the gift and how you are planning to use it. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dave Reiter in the church finance office.

APPLICATION IS DUE IN THE FINANCE OFFICE **BY JUNE 17, 2018**.

# Save the Date:

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

Mark your calendars and save November 3 for the third annual Deacons' fundraiser. "The Giving Gala" benefitting The Open Door will be held at St. Clair Country Club.

It's an exciting evening of good food, fellowship, and supporting a worthy charity. More information will follow.



# Baptisms

## January 14

**Elliott Kenneth**

*Parents: Jodee & Graham Stevens*

**Lucy Grace**

*Parents: Jacqueline & Edward Helm*

## March 11

**Gabriela June**

*Parents: Andrea & Jonathan Killmeyer*

**Mason Henry**

*Parents: Caitlin & David Wintruba*

## April 1

**Hadley Mae**

*Parents: Lindsay & Edgar Carter*

## April 7

**Alexander Holloway**

*Parents: Kelly & Brian Holloway*

## May 20

**Nora Jean**

*Parents: Lauren & Benjamin Hassett*

**Wesley Michael**

*Parents: Laura & John DeSimone*

**Reagan Amelia**

*Parents: Samantha & Glenn Stewart*

## May 27

**Theodore Henry**

*Parents: Jillian & Richard Kyle*

# 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.

# Financial Report *As of April 30, 2018*

General Fund Contributions	
Year-to-Date Actual 2018	\$662,387.53
Annual Budget	\$1,995,579.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$1,333,191.47

Year-to-Date Income Statement	
Income	\$767,942.74
Expenses	\$765,594.44
Net Position	\$2,348.30

## Session Update

On May 21, Session welcomed 11 new adult members into Westminster Church, after welcoming 23 senior high students as new members through the confirmation classes the previous day in worship.

Session also received an update on the Forward in Faith campaign, which was well on the way toward the goal of at least \$3 million. A recommendation from the Outreach Commission and the Endowment and Special Gifts Committee was approved, to grant \$41,000 from this year's endowment fund proceeds to The Open Door program in the Crafton area for a new staff position.

## Congratulations Confirmands

We congratulate and welcome into active membership the following young people who were received in May.

- |                  |                  |                   |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Alexandra Albert | Josh Howard      | Madison Podsiadly |
| Anna Bacik       | Ryan Junko       | Andrew Pudimat    |
| Jane Baronak     | Abby Kearns      | Paul Pudimat      |
| Tori Bringol     | Brian Long       | Harley Robinson   |
| Mia Collis       | Jacob Manko      | John Sukernek     |
| Ethan Dahelm     | Ridge McClintock | Sarah Strain      |
| Rocco D'Arrigo   | Hailey Poe       | Caroline Wright   |
| Lauren Hart      | Nate Paul        |                   |

## Deaths

**Laura Alvi**  
*April 19*

**Eileen Mortimer**  
*April 23*

**Rachel Laffin**  
*May 15*

**Norman Pace**  
*May 15*





**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**THE LORD** *is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.*

**THE LORD** *is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.*

**THE LORD** *upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.*

**THE LORD** *is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.*

**THE LORD** *is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*

— Psalm 145: 9, 14, 17-18