



# THE SPIRE

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pittsburgh, PA

## Legacy

Two events occurred in March that have me thinking a lot about my legacy these days.

The first is that I turned 65 and got my Medicare card, which I suppose makes me literally a card-carrying senior citizen. What I'm hoping for when I mention this to people is incredulity, something along the lines of "Really? You don't *look* that old!" While teenagers in the ticket booth at theaters have no trouble believing it, some of my peers are kind enough to honor my quest for disbelief. On the other hand, I know people in their nineties who look terrific and give me great hope for the next few decades.

The other thing that happened in March, as I'm pretty sure I've mentioned to just about everyone, is that I became a grandfather. (Pictures are available upon request, or quite possibly without a request.)

My grandson is just four weeks old, so he hasn't accomplished much yet, except that he's managed to multiply my already strong sense of responsibility by at least one order of magnitude. My son and daughter-in-law graciously named the baby after his grandfathers, which magnifies my sense of duty by yet another power of ten.

A great many friends, and even a few strangers, who have already reached this milestone welcome me warmly into the large and joyful fellowship of grandparents. Some offer advice; most just offer a knowing smile. "You're going to love it," they say.

I know they're right, but for me, love always carries with it a deep sense of obligation. Not an onerous sense, as though it were some sort of burden, but more like a peculiar kind of privilege. I owe little James, and whatever siblings and cousins he might acquire, the greatest collection of wisdom and warmth, good humor and gentle encouragement I can muster. And even though he's barely beginning to figure out the details of this wide world he's been born into, he pays attention to everything he sees – which means we need to help him learn to see the right things.



I feel some degree of urgency about all this, even in these first few weeks. Just the other day, a wise grandmother who's been at it much longer than I sent me a picture of her twenty-something grandson with the caption "In the blink of an eye." A year to these little ones feels like forever, but to their elders that same year flies unimaginably faster. One day we're showing them the difference between a dog and a cat, and yellow and blue; the next day we're trying to help them recognize right from wrong, and what's worth pursuing in life and what is not.

Infinitely more important than whatever else we might leave our children and grandchildren are faith, hope, and love – habits of the heart we learn in church. The things we do here, and the household of faith we leave behind, may turn out to be our greatest legacy after all.

*Jim Gilbert*

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### Traditional Worship

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### The Bridge Contemporary Worship

📅	Sundays
🕒	9:45 a.m.
📍	WROC

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

## Prayer for Pentecost

*Living God, you sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life into your church. Let us no longer be captives to fear, but messengers of your saving love, so that all may be reconciled in you; through Jesus Christ, our peace.*



## Prayer for Trinity Sunday

*Holy God, Three in One, you are our eternal hope, our companion in life, our liberating power. Lead us in your mission, baptizing and teaching in your blessed name, so that all may worship you to the end of the age.*



– Office of Theology and Worship,  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

### Upcoming Events

**6  
MAY**

**Concert with  
Andrew Fouts  
and Justin  
Wallace**  
3:00 p.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

**Forward in  
Faith Dinner**  
6:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

**10  
MAY**

**Ascension of  
the Lord**

**13  
MAY**

**Mother's Day  
Musical**

**20  
MAY**

**Day of  
Pentecost  
Blood Drive**

**27  
MAY**

**Trinity Sunday**

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.  
Galbreath Chapel

## May Series

*presented in memory of  
Warren Archer*

# Two Centuries of Women in Church and Public Life

*In August of 2016, attorney, historian, and Westminster elder Warren Archer proposed a seminar series for May 2018 on the history of women's rights, in anticipation of the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seneca Falls Women's Convention held on July 19 and 20, 1848. This topic was very important to Warren, who championed the rights of women throughout his life. After Warren's unexpected death this past February, the seminar planning team decided to proceed with the series in memory of Warren.*

*Warren viewed the struggle for women's rights from a Christian perspective. He wrote: "Virtually all of the women leading this crusade were Christians, particularly Quakers. However, they often had to deal with arguments against women's rights put forward by men quoting the Bible. As a result, the debate about the place of women in a Christian society was often part of the debate about what legal rights women should have."*

*Four outstanding professional women have graciously agreed to share their expertise and experience over the four Sundays of May. It promises to be a stimulating series, addressing the rights of women – in and beyond the church – both in history and in the present.*

**May 6**

## The Origins of Women's Rights in the U.S.

*Lisa Tetrault, Associate Professor of History, Carnegie Mellon University*

Nineteenth-century women's rights movements were about far more than suffrage, the common perception. Come hear about suffrage and the rest of the rights universe women explored and demanded. We'll work to link that universe to ours, thinking about how to define rights in a way that best serves all. Bring your questions and thoughts, for an interactive dialogue.

**May 13**

## The Status of Women's Leadership and Gender Equity in the U.S.

*Jessie B. Ramey, Founding Director of the Women's Institute at Chatham University and Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies*

Women have made tremendous progress, yet they still do not have political, economic, or social equality. What is the status of women and girls in the United States today? What are some of the persistent barriers to equality and what is being done here in Pittsburgh and at Chatham's new Women's Institute to promote women's leadership and gender equity?

**May 20**

## If the Way Be Clear: Brief History of Women's Ordination in the Presbyterian Church

*Rev. Ann E. Morris, minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

In 1956 the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A (our "northern" denomination) ratified the constitutional amendment that added the following sentence to the Form of Government pertaining to ordained ministers: "Both men and women may be called to this office." Our sister denomination in the South took another

nine years to declare women eligible for the same vocation. Doors to professional status as ministers in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century would never have opened for women if it had not been for the power base that women laity developed through their foreign and especially home mission societies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Church women's organizational and fundraising abilities, learned in these mission support societies, empowered women to influence the governing bodies throughout the denomination. It was here that women learned the skills necessary to navigate successfully the power structures with which men controlled the church. The men leaders responded to this challenge to their authority with a tactic frequently used in the executive offices and board rooms of corporations everywhere. They reorganized the structure of the General Assembly. It is a good story. Hear it told and find out its legacy to the PC(USA).

**May 27**

## Moving Past Bias Barriers to "Administer(ing) True Justice; Show(ing) Mercy and Compassion to One Another"

*Marta McClintock-Comeaux, Associate Professor and Director of the Office of Women's Studies, California University of Pennsylvania*

What if we lived by Zechariah 7:9: "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.'" Or Mark 12:31: "...Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." Many strive to live from a place of love, but conscious and unconscious fears, stereotypes, and biases get in our way, leading to inequality and injustice. A native of the South Hills and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux will share pieces of her story of love, faith, family, and her pursuit of justice. The primary focus will be examining biases and inequalities as they relate to gender, race, and other socially constructed identities, as well as small steps and strategies that can move us from a place of misinformed judgments and inequity, to greater awareness and social justice.

# Speaker Bios

## Lisa Tetrault, PhD

**Lisa Tetrault, PhD**, specializes in the history of U.S. women and gender. Her research and teaching interests focus on the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of History.

Her first book, *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 1848-1898* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014), won the Organization of American Historians' inaugural Mary Jurich Nickliss women's history book prize. The book uncovers the politics behind the manufacture of an origins myth for feminism. Typically, the beginning of a women's rights movement in the United States is dated to 1848, to the first women's rights meeting in Seneca Falls, NY. This origins story, however, did not become commonplace until much later, born of the politics of Reconstruction. A handful of women created this story in response to Reconstruction-era politics, some 40 to 50 years after the actual meeting, with broad-reaching implications for the content and direction of the movement.

Dr. Tetrault has received long-term fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University, the Newberry Library, and the Smithsonian Institution. The American Historical Association and the Library of Congress awarded her the 2007 J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship, then given for the most promising book by a young historian.

## Jessie B. Ramey, PhD

**Jessie B. Ramey, PhD**, is the Founding Director of the Women's Institute at Chatham University and Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies. She is a historian of gender, race, working families, and U.S. social policy. Her book, *Child Care in Black and White: Working Parents and the History of Orphanages* (University of Illinois Press, 2012), won the Lerner-Scott Prize in women's history from the Organization of American Historians, the Herbert G. Gutman Prize from the Labor and Working-Class History Association, and the John Heinz Award from the National Academy of Social Insurance. She received a New Faculty Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), and the Iris Marion Young Award for Political Engagement from the University of Pittsburgh in recognition of her work on public education policy, the subject of her current book project.



Dr. Ramey was named one of the top "people to know" by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*; one of "5 People Making Pittsburgh a More Livable City for All," by *NEXT Pittsburgh*; and was invited twice to President Obama's White House to discuss education policy. Pittsburgh City Council appointed her to the new Gender Equity Commission, which will be working on an intersectional analysis of all city functions, and she serves on the Mayor's Task Force on honoring the legacy of black women in Pittsburgh. She earned a BA with honors in social history from Carnegie Mellon University, an MA in women's history from Sarah Lawrence College, and an MA and PhD in history from Carnegie Mellon University.

## Rev. Ann E. Morris

**Rev. Ann E. Morris** was ordained in 2000 by Pittsburgh Presbytery, PC(USA). A graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Ann served as temporary supply pastor of Crafton Presbyterian Church. Since then she has filled pulpits for vacationing ministers and churches without installed clergy throughout Pittsburgh, Washington, and Beaver Counties. She currently serves on Pittsburgh Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission and is one of the team teachers of Westminster's Genesis adult Sunday school class. Ann's first career was spent in cash management and treasury roles in several area Fortune 500 companies. She now works nine to five, Monday through Friday, at a bank in downtown Pittsburgh.



## Marta McClintock-Comeaux, PhD

**Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux** is the Director of Women's Studies and an Associate Professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society & Law at California University of Pennsylvania. She earned her PhD in family science from the University of Maryland, her master's in social work from the University of Michigan, and her undergraduate degree from Bucknell University. Her passion for social justice and for building relationship and community-based compassion and empathy is woven throughout her work and personal life. Marta's current research interests include egalitarian couple relationships, equity in education, women's leadership, and building community through dialogues. She is on the Board of Directors for the Women and Girls Foundation, is a member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's TEAM TODD, and is active in her local schools and at Westminster Church. She and her husband Patrick are partners and teammates, working together to raise four active, smart, compassionate kids.





# Breathed

Yesterday was one of those long, long days. Not that it was a bad day, though there were certainly some moments I could have lived without. And not that it was really stressful, though there were certainly some moments of stress. It was just one of those days that when you finally get home, put the kids to bed, and flop down on the couch, there's a tremendous sigh of relief.

As I often do as a way to unwind, I turned on the TV and started to flip through my movie collection to see if I could find something to watch. Usually after the long days, my remote points in the direction of superheroes like Captain America or Superman. As awesome as these movies are, they require exactly zero brain cells to enjoy. There are good guys, there are bad guys. They duke it out. There are probably explosions. Nothing to it.

But as I was flipping through last night, I remembered a documentary I had purchased but not had time to watch. It was the story of one of my favorite musicians and songwriters, Jon Foreman. He usually fronts the band Switchfoot, but has been spending some time working on a solo project. This documentary was what happened at the end of recording for the new project, where Jon decided he was going to play 25 shows in 24 hours in his hometown of San Diego. Why one would choose to do this, I don't know, but I am a fan of his music and an even bigger fan of crazy ideas. So I settled in to watch.

As I was watching, I started to remember that Jon was not only one of my favorite songwriters, but also one of my favorite theologians. In the songs for this crazy 25 shows in 24 hours, he wrote about the shortness of life, how death feels ever present, and what resurrection looks like in Christ. I'm sure I was driving Sarah crazy as I sat and watched, grumbling in agreement, even a couple of times saying "Amen!" Something about the

movie, something about watching someone chase a dream hard, something about hearing thoughtful music speaking the truth of the kingdom well, all came together and lit a spark in my soul. I wanted badly to pick up a guitar and start writing.

In short, I was inspired.

To be inspired, literally, means to be breathed into, to be given spirit. It's a bit like that first breath when you crest the surface after a long time underwater. It's just so life-giving, and refreshing. In my experience, once you've been inspired, once you've been breathed into, you want to exhale. You want to take all of that inspiration and make something of it. There's got to be an outpouring of something.

What I was left with at the end of that movie was a question. I know that Jon Foreman is one of the people who inspire me. There are so many others. But at the end of the movie I looked at Sarah and wondered out loud why I don't listen to him more often? This person inspires me, so I want to spend more time around him. That makes sense, right? It all got me thinking about how so much of life is spent just trying to get through the long days. Get your work done. Answer the emails. Buy the groceries. Get the kids to daycare. On. And on. And on. I think if left unchecked, we could wander the deserts of our souls without ever getting a sip of inspiration.

And sure, musicians and writers and poets inspire us. But I also want to drink deeply of the inspiration that comes from the God who first breathed life into us. There is endless inspiration out there in God's beautiful kingdom. Go breathe it in!

– Jason Freyer

## BETWEEN HERE AND THERE

Something about springtime gets everyone itching for change. The weather seems to have *finally* taken a turn for the better. Family vacations, summertime, and backyard evenings are all on the horizon. But for now, we wait. We don't wait because we want to; we wait because we have to. That's the way it is with so much of life. We wait for change, or whatever may be coming next, because we have to. We can't hasten the turn of the earth any more than we can hasten the development of what God would have for us as we move forward in life. I've learned this the hard way, and by "hard" I mean impatiently, my whole life.

Growing up, I had a small picture in my room that my mother had placed there. The picture, as far as I can remember, was of a mother hen duck and her ducklings with a caption painted on it. I remember the caption exactly: "Be patient 'til your wings are grown."

That phrase still drives me crazy.

I don't want to wait, and even less "be patient." I want to sprout my wings yesterday. Patience is a fruit of the spirit that is hard to find in my orchard. Fortunately for me, my orchard has an excellent caretaker. God has given me all sorts of reasons to trust in the virtues of patience.

Recently at a meeting of parents from our community I said, "There are very few stories that would have put me where I am today." People in the room who have known me since my teenage years (my wife and Westminster's own Jason Freyer) laughed because they knew it was true. But just because we wouldn't have written the story the way it turned out doesn't mean that God hadn't been writing this *exact* story the entire time. It turns out God is far more patient with me than I've ever been with myself – or anything else for that matter.

When I think of all the things that I'm most proud of, most passionate about, most excited about, or most in awe of, I can't help but draw a straight line back to a relationship with Jesus, or a relationship with the church. I would never have guessed, when I was waiting for my wings to grow, that this is how my life would turn out.

But my wings aren't done growing yet, and neither are yours. There's always a new adventure to say "yes" to, or an old habit that needs a "no." As much as we'd like to hasten this progress and development, more often than not we wouldn't be ready for everything we wanted if we got it right away. Our lives need to be developed before they can best perform their duties. Our faiths need to be developed before they can best commit to their purposes. That brings up another point – our faith's purpose develops over our lifetimes as well. Perhaps it lifts us from despair, carries us through pain, brings joy in sorrow, gives hope to the hopeless, life to the lifeless, or love to the apathetic.

Faith calls us forward just like springtime. There's more on the horizon if you're willing to look for it. Maybe you're ready for it right now; God has prepared you over the years. Or perhaps you'll need to be patient; God is developing something in you right now. Who knows what story God is writing in your life?

– Ed Sutter



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just like springtime.  
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As many of you know, I really love the parts of my work at Westminster that allow me to have regular interactions with the children. A few weeks ago we were getting ready to start a Bible lesson, when one of our three and a half year olds came and stood in front of me. Her face was serious; clearly she was working on some deep thought. "I think I have known you for a very long time," she said. I stooped down to her level, and acknowledged that she was correct: I have, in fact, known her since she was born. "What do you think about that?" I asked. She thought for a minute, "Well, you're just always here, and you know my name."

I have lots of conversations with kids, and honestly, I probably forget many of them almost immediately.

This one, however, stuck in my mind. Recently, I have been involved in a number of conversations, here at Westminster and with colleagues in other churches, about the most effective ways to reach and have an impact on the lives of the children and families we serve. How can we help them grow into the kind of faith that will "stick" through all of the challenges and changes they will face in their lives? Individually and collectively we have been reading, researching, asking questions, and trying to come up with answers. It's a tough question – and there don't seem to be easy answers. Yet research by Kara Powell and Chap Clark with the Fuller Youth Institute, as described in their book *Sticky Faith*, seems to suggest that one major factor contributing to kids developing a lasting faith is a sense of connection to the wider congregation, not just to the people in the children's and youth programs: "By far, the number one way that churches made the teens in our survey feel welcomed and valued was when adults in the congregation showed an interest in them."

Interestingly, that seems to align with something Jesus said. The disciples, arguing amongst themselves about which of them would be the greatest, are interrupted by Jesus who, Luke says, "knew their thoughts." Jesus calls a child over, and standing alongside the child says, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me" (Luke 9:48). A commentary by biblical scholar John Nolland interprets this event as Jesus' prescription for church life in which he is not physically present: honor and respect given to the "lowly" (represented here by children) is the same as honor and respect paid to Jesus himself.

Theologian Henri Nouwen expanded on that idea in his book *Reaching Out*: "Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place." It seems to me that "hospitality" – greeting a guest and making them feel welcome – is a lot like what Jesus means. It seems to me that greeting our children and teens with hospitality is exactly what *Sticky Faith* is describing.



**I wonder, what difference we could make in the lives of the children in our midst, as a church community, if we made a concentrated effort to really connect with them each time we met them?**

I wonder, what difference could we make in the lives of the children in our midst, as a church community, if we made a concentrated effort to really connect with them each time we met them?

And what would it take to connect? Based on the conversation I described above, it doesn't really require much work at all. "You're just always here, and you know my name," my small friend said. Presence – just being here – and taking the time to learn someone's name. It is amazing what a difference it makes when someone calls us by name, isn't it? We feel so much more valued and welcomed. You could make a world of difference, just by making the time to speak to just one child at Westminster, by name, each time you see him or her.

– Robin Pyles



# Christ's Ascension: The Presbyterian Feast Day

Acts 1:1-11 tells the story of Christ's ascension, which the church celebrates each year on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter – the Thursday after the sixth Sunday of Easter – or on the following Sunday. This year the Ascension of the Lord falls on May 10. While John Calvin abandoned most feast days in the church year, he held on to the ascension. His theology placed great importance on the ascended and reigning Christ, who is Lord of the world, head of the church, and available to all people through the Holy Spirit.

Calvin, in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vividly describes the ascension of Christ this way:

Christ left us in such a way that his presence might be more useful to us – a presence that had been confined in a humble abode of flesh so long as he sojourned on earth... As his body was raised up above all the heavens, so his power and energy were diffused and spread beyond all the bounds of heaven and earth.



John S. McClure comments on how Calvin's thoughts about Christ's ascension can have a powerful effect on our lives and in our world:

The Ascension is nothing short of the inauguration of the Kingdom of God, a new age in which faithful Christians find that they have access, through Christ, to God's ultimate reality and purposes.

This ascension of Jesus Christ is good news for us as Christians, and through us, for our world. It means that God loves, values, holds, and will transform our fragile and broken humanity in Christ. It means that, at the Ascension, Jesus took all of human life, which he cared for so deeply, and brought it "into the heavenly places," into the very heart of God. This includes the suffering refugee, the abused child or spouse, the victim of war or terror, the lonely one in the nursing home, the one who struggles with depression or a lost sense of worth and value, those who are sick, all who are in difficult transitions in life.

All of human life, at the Ascension, moves even more emphatically to God's side! All, in Christ, are moving, sometimes with sparks flying, more deeply into God's being and becoming. In Christ's Ascension we have a vision of humanity in all of its depth and breath being taken up into, being pulled toward, the heart of God in Christ.\*

This is good news for our spiritual lives and our practical lives as we work faithfully to serve God in all that we do.

\*John S. McClure, "Ascension – A Promise of Great Things to Come," <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/ascension/> (reprinted from *Presbyterians Today*, May 2002). McClure is Charles G. Finney Professor of Preaching and Worship at Vanderbilt University.

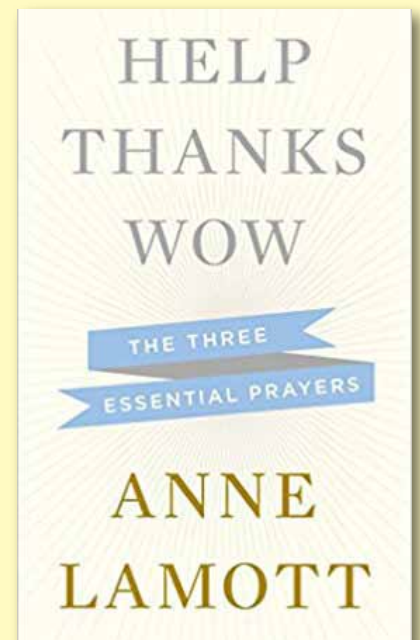
## Westminster Book Group

**Wednesday, May 30  
noon – 1:15 p.m.**

The Westminster Book Group will meet on Wednesday, May 30, to discuss *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott. We invite you to bring a brown bag lunch and join us.

Readers of all ages have followed and cherished Anne Lamott's funny and perceptive writing about her own faith through decades of trial and error. And in her new book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*, she has coalesced everything she knows about prayer to these fundamentals. Insightful and honest as only Anne Lamott can be, *Help, Thanks, Wow* is the everyday faith book that new Lamott readers will love and longtime Lamott fans will treasure.

– Amazon



# Trip to Lancaster's Sight & Sound Theatre Performance of *Jesus*

The Adult Spiritual Development Commission is sponsoring a "deluxe motor coach" trip to Lancaster, PA, to see the show *Jesus* at the Sight & Sound Theatre on Wednesday, August 8, 2018. Several church members have attended past performances and found them to be enjoyable and meaningful. These productions are large scale, engaging, immersive experiences. This fellowship outing is suitable for a wide range of ages.

We are working with Lenzner Tour and Travel for this event. The cost of \$189 per person includes the bus fare, a ticket to the 3:00 p.m. show, and an Amish family style lunch at Plain & Fancy Restaurant in Lancaster. This will be a long, one-day trip, departing the church at 7:00 a.m. and returning at approximately 11:15 p.m. On the return trip we will stop at a Turnpike rest area for a dinner break.

The \$189 price is based on filling 35 seats. **The deadline for registration is July 1.** We encourage you to register early. If we still have open seats on June 1, the public will be invited to join us. If we do not have 35 participants by July 1, we will, with regret, cancel the trip and return fares paid.

Registration is available online through the church website or by filling out the form below. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Dilly at bob.wpc@radilly.org or 724-941-5684.

See [www.sight-sound.com](http://www.sight-sound.com) for information about the production and [www.plainandfancyfarm.com](http://www.plainandfancyfarm.com) regarding lunch.



## Westminster Trip to Lancaster's Sight & Sound Theatre Performance of *Jesus* **REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special dietary needs for any/all guests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form, with payment (checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church) to:**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, ATTN: Anna Hiner, 2040 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

# Ballet and Yoga for Children at the WROC



## Introduction to Ballet: Incorporating Faith and Dance!

(for children ages 3 – 5)

Children will celebrate God's love for them while learning basic ballet technique. Kids will leap, jump, turn, and smile for God's love! Participants will receive 30 minutes of introduction to ballet, which consists of short ballet barre, stretching, and beginner ballet steps. At the end of each class children will hear and explore a short Bible verse that relates to class.

**Saturdays, June 2 – 23**

**9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**

OR

**Tuesdays, July 10 – 31**

**6:00 – 6:45 p.m.**

**Cost: \$50**

**WROC Fitness Room (above gym)**

**Instructor: Kiera Pyles**

*Kiera Pyles has been dancing since she was 3. She was a competitive dancer with Janet Hays and Company dance studio for 13 years and also trained at West Point Ballet school for several years. She has studied in New York at Steps on Broadway, Broadway Dance Center, and New York City Ballet. She is currently a sophomore at Point Park University earning her BA in dance.*

## Flow (VINYASA) Yoga P.M.

*Children age 12 and older are welcome to attend with an adult.*

Share the benefits of Yoga with your child! Yoga helps with stress and weight management, balance and flexibility. Pre-teens and teens can share in these same benefits along with adults and gain essential life tools such as self-esteem and confidence, inner and outer strength, attention and concentration, and heightened awareness of both oneself and others.

Class focuses on body awareness while stretching, breathing, building balance and strength using a smooth flow format. This class is appropriate for all fitness levels and individuals or parents with a child. Please bring a mat to class.

**Mondays: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Pay per class: \$7 – Drop in anytime!**

**Instructor: Deb White – Registered Yoga Instructor**



*Registration for all summer fitness programs is underway! Visit [wroc.westminster-church.org](http://wroc.westminster-church.org) for a complete listing of classes and registration details.*

## MUSIC & ARTS SERIES

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Music & Arts Series

### *Roman Holiday: A Baroque Musical Tour through the Eternal City*

**Sunday, May 6**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Galbreath Chapel**  
*Freewill offering at the door*

Music & Arts at Westminster celebrates May with the return of Andrew Fouts and Justin Wallace to the beautiful space of Galbreath Chapel. Violinist Andrew is one of the familiar faces of Chatham Baroque. Justin is a composer, the assistant organist at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, and Pittsburgh's premier harpsichordist, often playing with Chatham Baroque. This truly dynamic duo is known for superb performance and a keen ability to connect the best music of earlier centuries with today's audiences.



## Andrew Fouts & Justin Wallace

*violin* & *organ*

The concert features delightful music for solo organ and for violin and organ. Expect a charming program, with a perfect playlist for a Sunday afternoon in the merry month of May.

*Funding for the Westminster Music & Arts Series comes from the generous gifts of friends of the arts. Contributions to Westminster Music & Arts will ensure that Westminster Presbyterian Church continues to offer excellent musical programs as an outreach to the community.*

## Forward in Faith Dinner Reminder

**Sunday, May 6**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
Fellowship Hall

You are invited to a dinner for fellowship, and to learn more about our new campaign for property improvements, outreach, and the church's endowment. There will be no charge for this catered, buffet-style gathering, and no one will be asked to contribute or make any sort of commitment. The dinner is for adults and youth, and childcare will be provided, including a kid-friendly meal. Please make your reservation by contacting Anna Hiner at [hiner@westminster-church.org](mailto:hiner@westminster-church.org) or 412-835-6630x207.



FORWARD IN FAITH

IN *this house...*



BEYOND *this house...*



for the **FUTURE...**



# Volunteers among Us

When you walk into Room 238 on the third or fourth Wednesday morning of the month, you will encounter a group of women working companionably and efficiently. What are they doing? They are preparing the monthly *Spire* for mailing. This group affectionately calls themselves the Spirettes and they have worked together for many years.

The Spirettes currently include Evelyn Miller, Ruth O'Brien, Jean Green, Janet Reid, Nancy Schneider, Callie Christner,

There are 800-900 mailings per month, so this takes her roughly two hours. On each *Spire*, the volunteers place a white sticker to close it, followed by a mailing label. Copies are put in groups of no fewer than ten and no greater than 20, and double rubber-banded according to numerous zip code rules. The banded copies are put in huge mail bags again according to zip codes, then labeled and placed in the hallway for Dave Reiter. All the while, Doris is keeping detailed paperwork to accompany the mail bags.



substitute Bev Hilty, and new member Nancy Thomas. The group is led by Doris Turner. Observing the group, it is obvious how much they care about each other and love working together. They are laughing and having so much fun, all the while quickly completing the task at hand. Jeannie Schott from the print room drops in with a big smile and thank you and expresses her appreciation. At the end of the morning there is a sense of accomplishment and Dave Reiter takes the *Spire* to the post office.

Doris and Evelyn have been with the group the longest, starting when the *Spire* was put together in the old library in the church office wing. At that time, this was an all-day project as the volunteers assembled the pages, long-armed stapled them, and folded the finished product. Then they followed post office instructions for mailing. Now, in part thanks to technology, Doris sets up a yearly schedule with Jeannie Schott and Jeannie has the *Spire* all ready for the group. Dave Reiter sets up the tables and supplies before the group arrives, so the Spirettes can get right to work.

Some would say the Spirettes are actually doing the post office's work, but there are no complaints as they follow specific details and instructions. If anything is done incorrectly, the post office will send everything back to be redone (this has only happened once!). Doris takes the church mailing labels home ahead of time to sift and sort through and prepare for Wednesday morning.



The whole morning process takes about two hours. Halfway through, the volunteers enjoy a short coffee break together, to relax and stretch. They repeat the process nine times a year. In July, missing each other's company, they gather for lunch and fellowship and to receive the next year's mailing schedule. This incredible group has tirelessly provided this service to Westminster Church members for so many years! When you receive your next *Spire*, give a little prayer of thanks to the One who guides these humble volunteers in their service.

– Kris Overstreet

# What the Deacons Do

The Westminster Deacons will host the second blood drive of the year on Sunday, May 20, in Fellowship Hall. Deacons plan each blood drive several weeks in advance, networking and meeting with the Central Blood Bank coordinators to ensure that everything is in place for the day of the drive. Many deacons will be donating blood, and we will also be available during the drive to greet and support those who are donating.

Year after year, our mission is to make people aware of the life sustaining gift of blood, and to encourage anyone who can to participate. The February blood drive was highly successful, and we hope to see this continue.

If you are healthy, and would like to participate, you can sign up in advance or walk in and donate. See details at right. Please join us!



## Blood Drive

Sunday, May 20  
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](http://www.centralbloodbank.org), using sponsor code G0010171
- Signup tables before or after worship services on May 6 and 13
- 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.*

# Financial Report *As of March 31, 2018*

## General Fund Contributions

Year-to-Date Actual 2018	\$497,255.75
Annual Budget	\$1,995,579.00
Amount needed to fulfill budget	\$1,498,323.25

## Year-to-Date Income Statement

Income	\$580,311.94
Expenses	\$579,517.84
Net Position	\$794.10



*The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

*— Isaiah 40:8*



# Deaths

**Jeanne Lindsey**  
*April 8*

**Walter Dyck**  
*April 16*

**Myron “Jess” Jessen**  
*April 19*





**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

2040 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
[www.westminster-church.org](http://www.westminster-church.org)  
A PC(USA) Congregation

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT 2748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

This *Spire* was printed on paper that contains 30% recycled post-consumer fiber, is EcoLogo certified, and was manufactured in Canada using biogas.

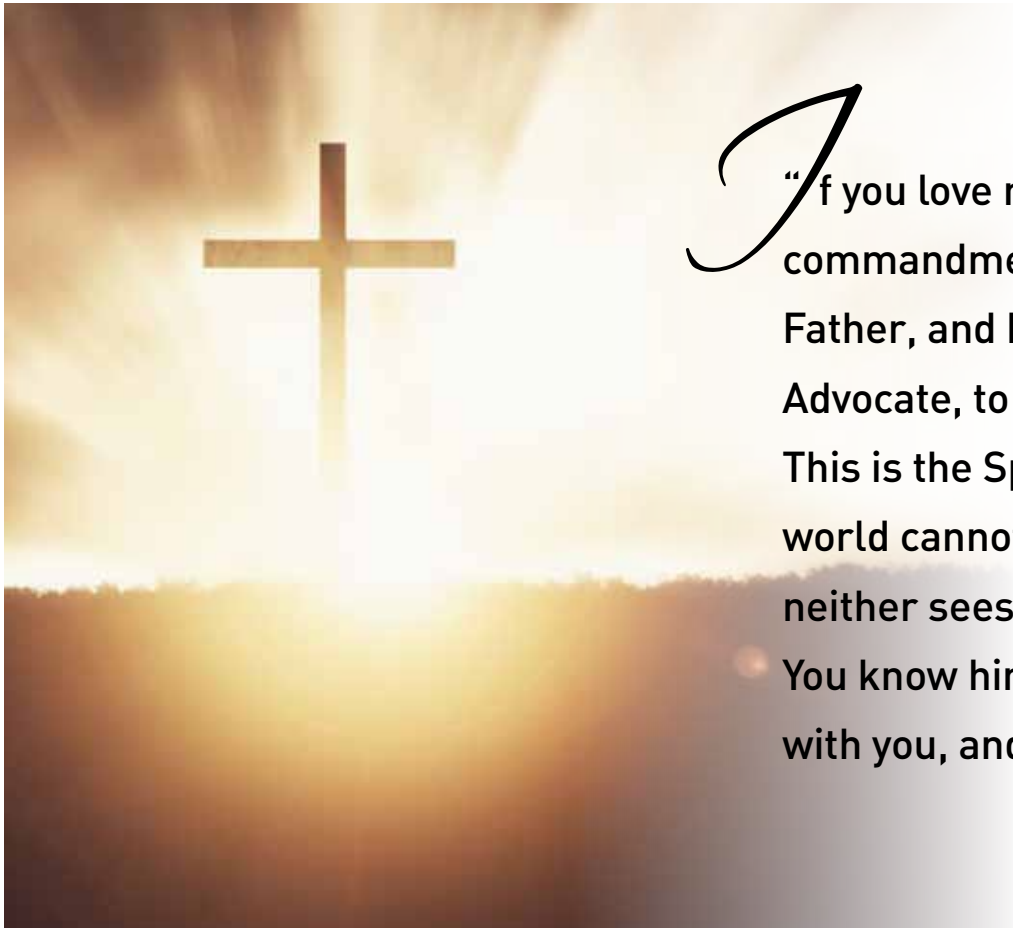
Thank you for helping to care for God's creation by recycling this *Spire* in the bin in our north parking lot.



[www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh](http://www.facebook.com/Westminster.Pittsburgh)



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



*I*f you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”

**John 14:15-17**