WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Knowing ChristMaking Christ Known

March 17, 2024 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:30 A.M. Traditional



GATHERING THOUGHT

"Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer."

- Rainer Maria Rilke

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 9:30 A.M.

PRELUDE Kingsfold Fantasia Derek Hakes

Chancel Ringers; Mindy Bowman, flute

WELCOME (*Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad in your pew*)

CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Psalm 119:10-18

Tony Spaziani

Leader: With my whole heart I seek you, O Lord.

People: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord; with my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

People: I delight in your way as much as in all riches.

Leader: I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

People: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Leader: Deal bountifully with us, Lord, that we may live and observe your word.

People: Open our eyes, so that we may behold wondrous things from you.



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you shape and form us as we learn from you. We long to approach you with curiosity and a teachable spirit. Instead, we often live as if we know best. Forgive us for the times when we fail to ask you the questions of our hearts. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Make us brave and willing to listen to you. With hope and humility we pray...(time to offer silent prayers of confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

RESPONSE #475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (stanza 3) (please stand if able)

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Question to Congregation: Do we, the members of this congregation, in the name of the whole church of Christ, undertake with these parents the Christian nurture of this child so that in due time she may confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? If so, signify by saying, "We do."

Response: We do.

Question to Children: Children of Westminster, do we promise to share the Light of Jesus with Cambrie by being her friend and always showing her kindness and love? If so, say, "Yes, we do!"

Response: Yes, we do!

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING – "The Peace of Christ"

ANTHEM

In This Very Room
Youth Choir

Ron & Carol Harris

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me, and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me, and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

And in this very room there's quite enough love for all of us, and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us, and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

In this very room there's quite enough love for all the world, and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world, and there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

......Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

I dare not lift my guilty eyes. I hide my lips in trembling shame. And in the darkness of my soul, I shrink from Your rekindling flame. Kyrie eleison, have mercy. In mercy cover me with grace, and blot out my iniquity. Renew my heart and wash me clean; grant with your pardon, purity. In equal measure of Your love, You promise mercy, tender compassion to the one, who seeks Your face. A broken heart, a fainting soul, a contrite spirit, together cry for Your forgiveness and Your grace. Against You only have I sinned. My deeds are evil in your sight. Of Your forgiveness let me sing, and in my singing take delight. Kyrie eleison, have mercy.

DOXOLOGY #606 (please stand if able)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, you shower us with your mercy and grace, and show us the way to live with one another and with you. By your Spirit, may these gifts be part of your good news within your church and in your world, that your mercies may bring forth life and light for all creation. Amen. (please be seated)

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Wandering Heart: Teach Me Leah Hrachovec

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

People: "How many times should I forgive?"

"Jesus, where are you going?"

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Leader: We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

People: "Where does it hurt?"

"What do you need?"

"How can I help?"

Leader: We believe that God is a teacher.

People: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

"Here I am."
"Send me."

Leader: We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

People: We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we

pray. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF TRUSTEE JAY MOSSMAN

HYMN #439 O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer (stand if able)

1 O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all dis-eas-es gent-ly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a - way our sin;
4 As it was with-out be-gin-ning, so it lasts with-out an end;

bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.
God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
like the pit-y of a fa-ther has the Lord's com-pas-sion been.
to their chil-dren's chil-dren ev-er shall God's righ-teous-ness ex-tend:

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr.

arr. Barry Braman



Worship Times: 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here today. To help us welcome you personally, please sign the *Friendship Pad* with your name, address, email and/or phone number.

If you are interested in knowing more about being a follower of Jesus, have any questions, or desire follow-up information, please speak to one of the pastors. Following worship, they can be found greeting at the doors of the sanctuary.

The next new member class will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 9:00am-1:30pm. Nursery care is available if requested by May 6.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR TODAY are: Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM is administered this morning at the 9:30am traditional service to Cambrie Hope Chaney, daughter of Tom and Christina Chaney.

KIDSCONNECT MORNING SCHEDULE:

- 8:45am Nursery care (6 months thru 4 years old) available until 12:15pm in Room 109. If you plan to use the nursery for nursery care and/or if you are willing to serve as a nursery volunteer, please contact Mary Maina at childcare@westminsterpc.org.
- 9:30am **Children Pre-K through 5**th **grade** will start out in worship with their parents and after the Thought for Children will be dismissed to their classes. Dismissal time is 10:40am.

^{*}Portions of today's **LITURGY** are adapted from *A Sanctified Art* "Wandering Heart" worship resources.

LENTEN JOURNEY CLASS: We continue our Lenten series, "Difficult Words of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings." Session 5: Outer Darkness led by Chris Clark.

USHERS: Roger Mecouch (lead usher), Anne Anderson, Ron Evans, Nancy Steiginga, Steve Vicker, John Villella

INVITATION FOR PARENTS FOR PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24.

Children's Ministry leaders will be in the Narthex next Sunday to help with the Palm Sunday Processional. Children are welcome to process behind the Chancel Choir in this celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sanctuary

9:30am – Traditional worship

11:00am – Contemporary worship with band

Wednesday Morning in the Chapel

9:10-9:30am – Prayer and Communion worship

PHONE MINISTRY - Calling in for Worship is offered for those who want to listen to the 9:30 am service by phone. Contact Nancy Christy at 610-696-3284 for dialing instructions.

A REMOTE TV MONITOR is in the Quiet Room (just outside the sanctuary in the west hallway) to view and hear worship in progress for those with restless children or who need to leave the sanctuary.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available for worship at the Information Center in the Narthex. Additionally, the sanctuary is equipped with an induction loop system that transmits to hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils. **PEW CUSHIONS** also available at the Information Center.

PRAY GROUNDS ARE LOCATED along the sides of our Sanctuary and are geared towards young children to engage in items from the cart during worship. This allows a space more suitable for them to be a part of the worship service.

TEXT GIVING is available. Text keyword "egivewpc" and then your donation amount to 73256 on your mobile device. Click the response link, make selections, hit continue, and add payment information. Contact Sandy Kurek at skurek@westminsterpc.org for more information.

PRAYER MINISTRY members receive a weekly list of prayer requests via email and members include them in their conversations with God. To have a prayer request included in the Prayer Ministry or to become a member, contact Janet Gauger at gauger.janet@gmail.com or the church office.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION is celebrated the first Sunday of every month in all services. If you desire or know of someone desiring **HOME COMMUNION**, please contact Ann Hatfield, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at 610-399-3377 ext. 114.

Ministers of Jesus Christ A
Pastors Leah
Pastor Emeritus
Director of Music Ministries
Associate Director of Music Ministries

All the Members of the Congregation
Leah Hrachovec, Jon Frost, Ann Hatfield
Bob Young
Tim Evers
stries
Kirsten Santos Rutschman



NEWS AND EVENTS

March 17, 2024



Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 10 W. Pleasant Grove Rd. West Chester, PA 19382 610-399-3377 www.westminsterpc.org

MEET THE STRATEGIC VISIONING LEAD TEAM



From left: facilitator Joe Gill, Rob Necarsulmer, Ruth Simonson, Tom Russell, Katie Cloutman, Leslie Robertshaw, Steve Brown, Mark Stanisz. Seated from left: Mary Maina, Emily Bowman, Jane Wendel, facilitator Suzanne Farnham, Pastor Leah Hrachovec. Not pictured: Chris Carpenter.

In its February 2024 meeting, the Session of Westminster approved a Strategic Visioning Lead Team to guide the congregation while working with ecumenical partners to discern God's call upon Westminster into the future.

The Strategic Visioning Lead Team, pictured above, met March 8-9 at The Welcoming Place, a retreat center of the Mennonite Central Committee. They were joined by facilitators Suzanne Farnham and Joe Gill from Listening Hearts Ministries in Baltimore, MD. Farnham and Gill led the Team in prayer, song, Scripture study, and creative spiritual practices. They also introduced guidelines for spiritual discernment, which will help Team members facilitate small group discussion and focus conversations in the congregation and community. The Center for Healthy Churches will also offer guidance. This Strategic Visioning process in 2024 is supported by a generous gift from an anonymous Westminster member, for which we are deeply grateful.

Last year marked five years since Westminster's previous work to develop "Godsized dreams:"

- 1. Expanding Our Witness
- 2. Serving Our Neighbors
- 3. Working toward Affordable Housing

4. Equipping the Emerging Generation

These dreams spurred investment of time, prayers, and efforts toward these long-term goals and relationships with community partners. The Team hopes to build on this work and expresses an openness to God's Spirit moving us forward in "knowing Christ, and making Christ known."

Rooted in our DNA as an adaptive congregation and part of the larger Reformed Christian tradition, we trust that God has a "future and a hope" (Jer 29:11) for Westminster, Christ's church in the world, and the whole of God's creation.

EASTER SPRING FLOWERS

If you'd like to order an Easter Spring Flower in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend, contact Barb Drain at bdrain@westminsterpc.org with your name and the dedication you would like listed in the bulletin. The cost this year is \$15.00.

Session also encourages those who wish to contribute to the Endowment Fund in memory or honor of a loved one or friend to do so; names will also be listed in bulletin.

Orders will be taken through Tuesday, March 26.



Camp SPARK (Spiritual Practices And Recreation for Kids)

Monday-Friday (June 24-28)

Theme: I'm So Blessed! ("For I am convinced that... NOTHING can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:38-39)

Flyers with more complete information are available at the welcome desk and office.

HELP SUPPORT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE

CVIM provides free, high-quality healthcare to uninsured working people with low incomes to help them live healthy, productive lives and to assure health equity in the Chester County Region.

Westminster's Outreach Committee is collecting the following items during the month of March:

- Toothbrushes (Adult and Children) Soft Bristle
- Toothpaste with Fluoride
- Dental Floss and Flossers
- Interproximal Brushers
- Mouthwash (MUST BE ALCOHOL FREE)
- Feminine Hygiene Pads

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Please bring these items to church during the month of March and place them in the marked bins located in the Heckert Center.

Thank you for supporting this ministry partner in our local community! Questions? <u>Contact Angela Emrich</u> at <u>ang.emrich@gmail.com</u>

SUPPORT ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering has provided avenues of partnership with those who have the least. The ministries supported by OGHS - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - work in a variety of ways to rebuild and restore the lives of families and communities. OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability. Each donation to OGHS helps change the lives of people who are in these challenging situations. Please consider donating during the season of Lent. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks to donate to One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your generous support!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: NO BAPTISM CLASS DURING MARCH. Next baptism class is scheduled for April 28, 2024 at 10:30am in room 405.

Men's Retreat: *April 12-14.* Registration forms are available online at our website or in the church office and at the Welcome desk.

Tuesday Fellowship: Our speaker next Tuesday, March 19 is Nathaniel H. Cooper who is married to Pastor Leah Hrachovec. Come and meet Pastor Leah's husband and hear his unique presentation: 10 Interesting Facts about Oklahoma. We will meet in Spellman Jr. at 9:30AM for fellowship, coffee, tea and treats. And from 10-11AM Nat Cooper will present his 10 Interesting Facts about Oklahoma. Contact Dave Goodale (dbgpharma@gmail.com) to be sent the zoom link information.

Eat Out with WPC Thursday Lunch Bunch

March 28, NOON at Pica's Restaurant 1233 West Chester Pike, West Chester Call Carol Olver at 610 883-6176 or Carol Edwards at 610 306-0674 for reservations and details.

Westminster's Library-Please visit the library to see our Easter display. While there, feel free to check out any books or DVDs of interest. The blue library cards are one per family. If there are any questions, please contact Phyllis Simmons at simmphyl@msn.com.

Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Site. We also offer a zoom option for those who are unable to meet in person. This is a valuable ministry where lives are transformed and hurts and habits are overcome. It is not solely for addiction issues but for all of life's challenges. Join us and let God work in your life through Celebrate Recovery. If you have any questions, you can email us at westminsterpresCR@gmail.com.

You don't have to handle your struggles alone anymore.

Thrift shop: Annual Spring Drop Off is just around the Corner!! It's so nice to welcome spring and if you are or have been downsizing, housecleaning, redecorating, etc. for spring, then trying to decide what to do with all that stuff, please consider the Westminster Thrift Shop's Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. drop-off under the Westminster church portico. Volunteers will be there to help with your donations. We are in need of: women's spring clothing (small, medium, large to Xlarge, 1X, 2X, 3X), jewelry, men's clothing (no suits), house decor, housewares, small pieces of furniture, collectibles, antiques, books, board games, puzzles. Your generosity helps us continue our mission of supporting community organizations in need, to date 50 organizations have received our support. THANK YOU!!!

Red Cross Blood Drive at Westminster, Friday, March 22, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm in Spellman Hall. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code WPC.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group. If you are a loved one supporting someone with dementia, please join us! Our meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00p.m. in Spellman Jr. or via zoom. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 26, at 6:00p.m.

Community Warehouse Spring Pick Up. If you have dining tables and chairs, mattresses, couches, etc. that you would like to find a new home for, The Community Warehouse Project can help! The Community Warehouse Project of Chester County is a service organization that collects and redistributes donated furniture to individuals and families in need within the region. Westminster will pick up your used furniture on Sat., April 13 from 8 am -11 am, and deliver for you! Email nancy@tuttlemarketing.com with your name, address and pictures of the items you wish to donate, and we will make the arrangements. If you want to help us that day, please let us know as well — we could use some strong bodies!!! For other smaller furniture and all household items, we encourage you to donate them to Westminster's Thrift Shop.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our Children's Ministry Needs You!

Nursery	Camp SPARK
9:30am – Easter Sunday (March 31)	Volunteers Needed and YOU, too, can do this!
2+ Additional Adults	Spread the word about Camp SPARK (share flyers, share through email, share on social media)!
Help us show our best hospitality to young families on Easter Sunday!	During camp, befriend a child, help them in their workshops, be on a safety team, us keep safety a TOP PRIORITY! So many ways to help that everyone do!
Come love on some littles!	We DO NOT NEED workshops leaders! Yay!!!
Moving forward the GREAT NEWS is that we have a continued need for volunteers because more and more families with littles are coming!	We DO NEED extra hands-on helpers!
So, help once per month? Once per 6 weeks? Once every couple of months or per quarter? Yes!	We DO NEED ADULTS in all workshops!
F	We DO NEED YOUTH in all workshops!
	WE DO NEED YOUTH with energy and excitement to lead "Energizers" and "Motivators!"
3 5	Help in the am. Help in the pm or both!
Contact Mary Maina at childcare@ westminsterpc.org	Contact Jill Reichert at jreichert@westminsterpc.org

FINANCIAL



Donate from your smart phone. Scan this image using your phone's QR code reader.

February 2024 General Fund – Mission and Church Operations

Year To Date	Actual	Budget	% vs Budget Better/(Worse)
Pledge Giving	\$ 546,474	\$ 527,109	3.7%
Total Revenue	\$ 682,163	\$ 622,779	9.5%
Expense	\$ 397,123	\$ 413,834	4.0%
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 285,040	\$ 208,945	36.4%

Message from our Church Administrator, Gerry McShane

February was another strong month as IRA QCD donations soared well beyond last February. To put it in perspective, IRAs represent 47% of YTD pledged giving, a significant jump over the prior year. A trend is developing where 50% of our giving now occurs in four months of the year, the first two and the last two. This makes it interesting in managing our cash flow. We have invested excess cash in bank CDs that provide returns of more than 5%, which has enhanced our other revenue. Our goal is to find other sources of revenue, facility use for example, to continue to supplement our primary revenue source. The Tromba Mundi concert provided us with \$1,000 in facility revenue in February. We have an excellent opportunity to host more of these type of concerts to take advantage of our beautiful space and ample parking as well as our partnership with WCU. Expenses have remained in check, with all ministry lines under budget, save for worship and arts and admin, and those are due to timing. Property Reserve investments for this year included the Spellman and front entrance portico roofs. This project is complete except for minor work. Our next big project will be replacing exterior doors and lower windows on the Sanctuary wing.

Offering Figures for 3/17/24 (includes online giving)

General Fund-Sunday Svc/Mailed/Online	\$32,854.50
Per Capita	230.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	303.00
Music Fund	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$33,412.50

Attendance: 3/17/24

In Person	324
Phone	7
Wellington	19
Live Stream	<u>552</u>
Total	902

Calendar for week of March 17, 2024

Sunday, March 17 8:30 A.M. Nursery Care (109) Traditional Service/WeeConnect 3-4 yrs 9:30 A.M. KidsConnect (K-5th grade) Journey Class (Spellman Jr.) 10:45 A.M. 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service/ Children and Worship Verdi Requiem Concert (Sanctuary) 4:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M. Youth Group (Cove) Monday, March 18 9:00 A.M. Thrift Shop workday until 3PM Tuesday, March 19 9:30 A.M. Tuesday Morning Fellowship (Spellman Jr.) Tuesday Women's Bible Study (407) 9:30 A.M Thrift Shop open until 3 P.M 10:00 A.M. 1:00 P.M. Westminster Knitters (Quiet Room) 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting (Spellman Jr. and Zoom) Wednesday, March 20 9:00 A.M. Women's Weekly Bible Study (Spellman Jr.) 9:10 A.M. Prayer and Communion Service (Chapel) Thrift Shop open until 3 P.M. 10:00 A.M. Better Days Together at WCU 11:00 A.M. 4:30 P.M. Contemplative Small Group via Zoom 5:00 P.M. Children's Choir (Spellman Hall) Gathering of Men (Spellman Jr) 7:00 P.M. Handbell Rehearsal (Spellman Hall) 7:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M. Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Thursday, March 21 Thrift Shop Closed 10:00 A.M. Tech Time with Lynn (Zoom) 7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) Celebrate Recovery (414) 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts (Spellman Hall) 7:00 P.M. Friday, March 22 10:00 A.M. Thrift Shop open until 3 P.M. 11:00 A.M. Blood Drive (Spellman Hall)

Saturday, March 23 9:00 A.M. Thrift Shop open until noon. Sunday, March 24

8:30 A.M. Nursery Care (109)

9:30 A.M. Traditional Service/WeeConnect 3-4 yrs KidsConnect (K-5th grade)

10:45 A.M. Journey Class (Spellman Jr.)

11:00 A.M. Contemporary Service/ Children and Worship

5:00 P.M. Vespers (Sanctuary)5:00 P.M. Youth Choir (Music

Room)

5:30 P.M. Youth Group (Cove)

FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS MARCH – SPAGHETTI SAUCE AND PASTA

For questions about any of our activities or events, please visit the website at westminsterpc.org or call the church office.