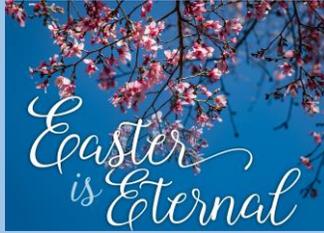


WESTMINSTER WITNESS



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My Family in Christ,

As we turn the corner from winter to spring, we begin to look forward to spending time in the garden.

The Bible story begins in a garden, and in the final scenes of the book of Revelation, the apostle John describes the new earth coming down from heaven as a garden in which the tree of life stands. So, at the beginning, in Genesis, we see the Garden of Eden turned into a desert because of sin; and in Revelation that desert is turned back into a garden.

At the heart of the whole story we discover Jesus in a garden: *"They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ... And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will'" (Mark 14: 32-37).*

In the garden story in Genesis, Adam, confronted by the forbidden tree and the command, 'Do not eat the fruit!', wanted to eat. He disobeyed, and the result was death. Then, in contrast, Jesus, the second Adam, faced the accursed tree and the command to drink the cup of suffering. Jesus did not want to drink, but obeyed, and the result is life. Jesus took the divine curse and was desolated and alienated in our place.

We should take this to heart this Easter season when we sing the wonderful words from the hymn, *"Jesus Christ is Risen Today:" Jesus Christ is risen today; Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

This is the good news and love that we as Christians know and proclaim every day. By his death and resurrection, Jesus became our sacrifice, our substitute, and our redeemer. May the reality of the resurrection grip our hearts afresh. Alleluia!

In our Savior's love,
Pastor Joe

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Wednesday, April 4th, 7:00 pm.



Come and rest your mind, body, and soul in our candlelit Sanctuary at our monthly Taizé service at 7:00 pm.

A time of prayer for the world will precede at service at 6:45 pm.



P.O.W.

Play on Westminster (P.O.W.) is the name of Westminster's latest effort to reach disadvantaged children through music who are enrolled at the Bolger Middle School in Keansburg. Each Thursday from 5-6pm, five middle school aged children receive a free violin lesson in Harlan Hall from Music Director, Erika Sayar's colleague, Dan Martinho; and a pizza dinner.

BIBLE FOR ALL SEASONS

Bible for all Seasons is back! Westminster members and friends are invited to gather for a brief Bible study in the Spring beauty of the Monmouth County Parks system. We will gather for Bible study, a bag lunch, and a leisurely walk at Monmouth Counties Deep Cut Gardens on Sunday April 29th at 12:00 pm. Please join us.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

WNL will return on Wednesday, April 25th. Subject to be determined.

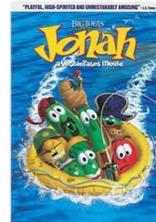


BUDS AND BLOOMS SPRING 2018

VEGGIETALES PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Friday, April 20

5:00-7:00 p.m. in Harlan Hall



Programs includes supper, VeggieTales video, games and crafts

Suggested donation of \$3.00 per event or contribution of Juiceboxes or Snacks

If you would like to help at one or more of the events, please contact **Amy Weston at 732-233-5705**, by email at a.weston00@gmail.com or thru the church office if you have any questions



reens & Tweens

Will not be meeting this month, but will return next month! Stay tuned for the date and time.

DEACON FOOD PANTRY Items for April

The Deacon's thank you for all your generous donations of food and hams for the Easter Food Baskets.

We need to replenish our shelves with:

Peanut butter, jelly, cold cereal, flavor pasta/rice sides, mayo, mac 'n cheese, canned chicken/tuna, and Jello.

He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. John 21:16 KJV



How to Access Our Food Pantry

The food pantry in Harlan Hall is kept stocked through the generosity of and for the benefit of Westminster members and the community at large. Should an emergency arise and a member or someone from the community needs food, call either Lori at the church office or Pastor Joe at 732.671.2585 (your call will be kept in complete confidence). They will notify the Moderator of the Deacons, Pam Wayde, and she will put together the parcels. The groceries may be picked up immediately in some cases or as early the next day by arrangement with either Pastor Joe or Pam Wayde.

