

WESTMINSTER WITNESS



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Reverend Joseph Hein



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Dear Friends,

High summer is here, which, by definition, is the middle of summer. The car and beer commercials present a lot of fun and frolicking images of summer: a couple hitting the road in search of adventure in their shiny-new SUV's; hard-bodied millennials at a pool party after a day of beach volleyball; or kids riding the wild "Twisted Colossus" roller coaster with arms stretched overhead in exhilaration at Six Flags Great Adventure Park.

The hot weather of summer surely makes for a lot of outdoor fun in the sun for all of us. But, for me, my time alone with God, and resting in the immense beauty of summer apart from the hub-bub of my daily schedule, gives balance and foundation to my life and restores inner-peace.

A couple of days ago I felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit to start my day in silence. At sunrise I made a cup of coffee and took a book of poems – Ranier Rilke's '*Book of Hours, Love Poems to God*' - to the patio in our shaded backyard. Squirrels descended from their leafy beds and were foraging for breakfast. Blue jays and smaller birds darted across the yard. A neighbor's cat walked quietly and stealthily along the back fence in the general direction of home.

In that beautiful context I read the following poem:

*If only for once it were still.
If the not quite right and the why this
could be muted, and the neighbor's laughter,
and the static my senses make-
if all of it didn't keep me from coming awake -*

*Then in one vast thousandfold thought
I could think you up to where thinking ends.*

*I could possess you,
even for the brevity of a smile,
to offer you
to all that lives,
in gladness.*

Out of eternal silence God spoke the Word, and through this Word, created and recreates the world. Silence is nothing else than waiting for God's Word and coming from God's Word with a blessing. I hope and pray that God's Word, time alone, and silence are part of summer 2018 for you.

Pastor Joe

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

BLUECLAWS FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 7:05 pm

We still have half of the summer to go! During August Westminster is attending the Faith and Family night at the Blueclaws game as a group. Please sign up in the Narthex or in Harlan Hall so we know how many tickets to purchase. The last date for ticket purchase is on Friday, August 10. Please contact Kim or the church office for more information.



2018 BLUECLAWS

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

Friday ~~June 15, 2018~~
Tuesday **August 21, 2018**

7:05pm Games

The BlueClaws welcome members of all faiths.
All groups receive the following incentives:

- 5:30 Pre-game Enlightenment
- Fundraising Options
- Youth Group On-Field Activities
- Seniors Eat Free
- Group Recognition on Video Board
- Discounted First Pitch, Food, and Merchandise

SILVER SLUGGERS TUESDAY

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey
vnacj

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Adults - \$10.00 | Senior/Junior - \$8.00



BLUECLAWS.com
732-901-7000

NOTE: Carl and Laurie Gentry will be featured on August 18 at 7 pm.

Good News at the Gazebo

A FREE summer concert series at the
Atlantic Highlands Municipal Harbor

Presented by Central Baptist Church

Bring your blankets, chairs, and friends to enjoy
free food and music every Saturday night at
7 p.m. during August 2018!



WHATS HAPPENING AT WPC



Sunday, September 9, 2018!!

SANCTUARY RECONFIGURATION

Our Chancel area now has a more spacious and brighter look! To create a more flexible worship space that better accommodates our Chancel Choir, the Good News Band, the Sunday School Choir and guest soloists, the choir pews have been removed and replaced with 15 red cushioned chairs. Also, with the removal of the choir pews, the Communion Table has been moved back, that is, deeper into the Chancel space, creating the visual effect of more space. The space is also much brighter with the addition of the red chairs.

Property committee members, John Cuttrell and Ed Bennett, coordinated the project together. Thank you to them for improving our beautiful and sacred Sanctuary space.

GARAGE REORGANIZATION

Jim Davis Sr. and son, Jim, generously donated the labor and materials to build the large 24x24 stage utilized for our second annual Faith, Hope, and Music Festival held on Westminster's Great Lawn on Saturday, July 14th. They built it in eight 6 x12 sections so that the stage can be easily assembled and disassembled. Thank you to Whirl Construction and Davis family for your generous gift to Westminster!

In order to keep the disassembled stage out of the elements, a space was needed to store it. Elder John Alonso made a drawing to scale of the interior of Westminster's garage and determined that the stage would indeed fit in the garage. John, and John Cuttrell reorganized the contents of the garage to accommodate the stage and its other contents. Now we have a beautifully organized garage space. Thank you to both Johns for their excellent work and sacrifice.

Calling All Choristers!

Thursday, September 6



Rally Day is around the corner! Please prayerfully consider joining the Chancel Choir, which will resume weekly Thursday night rehearsals from 7:30-8:30 beginning Thursday, September 6th. Music reading is NOT a requirement, only a voice and a will to sing in service to the Lord. For more information, please e-mail Erika Sayar at esayarwpc@gmail.com or come out to a rehearsal and see what it's all about!

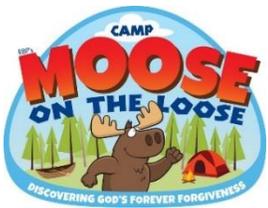


2nd Annual Faith, Hope & Music Festival a Success!

A big thank you to all of our performers, volunteers and attendees for the second annual Faith, Hope & Music Festival on July 14th! It was a wonderful afternoon of music in faith and fellowship with performances by our own talented BethAnne Clayton and the Good News Band, repeat visit from Nancy Scharff and the King of Kings Band, our guests from the last coffee house Brave (Joshua 1:9) and the new up and coming young Christian band OM-53. Wonderful activities and games took place on the lawn with food and treats from Brittany's Burgers and Cold Stone Creamery. The total attendance over the course of the evening was about 300 with many faces from other churches and surrounding towns. Again, thank you to all who were involved in putting this together and helping this event to run smoothly in our mission of community outreach via music.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Bruce the Moose was on the Loose!



This year, a crew of 20 adventurous children joined our volunteers at Westminster's Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was Camp Moose on the Loose, a Camping theme which taught the children of God's Love for us through forgiveness. A fun time was had by all. Each day, there were "campfire" Bible stories, outdoor activities, songs, crafts and camping-themed snacks, including campfire quesadillas and of course, what camp

would be complete without Smores! This was all capped off by an end of the week family barbecue, where the children got to show off what they had learned and enjoy time with family and friends. Throughout the week, "Bruce" (a small stuffed Moose) was awarded to campers who were caught setting a good Christian example. A great time was had by all and Westminster is grateful to all of the volunteers who helped to make this event special!

MISSION

COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP



The Mission Commission would like to thank the congregation for helping our cleaning supply drive for COG. Thanks to your generosity many families will be helped.

We ask that you please return the filled bags to church before the last Sunday on August.



The Mission Committee has arranged another WPC Habitat for Humanity build opportunity for 2018. We will be assisting in the building of a house for a Veteran in Keansburg on August 11 from 9:00-3:30.

Please save the dates and watch for sign-up sheets.

A VERY HEARTY THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR PREVIOUS EVENTS!!

DEACON FOOD PANTRY Items for August

Our pantry shelves are getting bare, please remember us when you shop. Crackers, canned tuna, mayo, canned chicken, canned pasta's (Ravioli, Beefaroni, Spaghetti O's with or without meat), jelly.

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.

