

WESTMINSTER WITNESS



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My Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! As we begin a new year, maybe you're looking for a fresh start. Lots of people make New Year's resolutions, which usually fade like a wisp of smoke in a strong breeze.

But there is a way to start new. When you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, asking him for forgiveness of your sins, you can start fresh. When I gave my life to Christ in my early twenties, I knew that I needed God's forgiveness. Accepting God's forgiveness, and depending upon God's power to help us forgive others, leads us to find peace in our life. God loves you and wants to forgive your sins in order to connect with you in an intimate way.

The Bible says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Wouldn't that be a great way to begin 2018?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Joe

WHATS NEW AT WPC

Hymn Sing! Sunday, Jan. 21 - 11am

Immediately following the regular service on Sunday, January 21st, please stay for a hymn sing! Last time, we explored some new and old favorite hymns centered on the theme of Christ as the light of our lives. This time, we will look for God as the source of our strength in the world and in our personal faith journeys. There are many inspiring new and new-to-us hymns in the new hymnals as well as so many favorite old standards. With a blend of both, we will explore music together that might bring our hearts closer to God. After the hymn sing, the Worship and Music committee will have a special coffee hour prepared for us all!

First Wednesdays At Westminster

Westminster's candlelight Taizé worship service, which, meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, returns on Wednesday, February 7th. Please join us for a quiet and spiritual evening of Intercessory Prayer beginning at 6:45 pm, followed by candlelight Taizé worship at 7 pm, and a Prayer Vigil supported by beautiful sacred music at 7:30 pm.

Lent

Lent, a 40-day season of spiritual preparation for Easter, begins Wednesday, February 14th. Two services of worship will be held - each offering the distribution of ashes - at noon and 7:30 pm. The noon service will be a 20 minute service to accommodate those who are on their lunch hour.

Westminster Nature Preschool Open House



Our unique and growing preschool will hold an open house for all interested parties on Wednesday, January 24 at 1:30 pm. If you are interested in checking it out, please contact Stacy McGann or Jil Persons, Co-directors, at 732-671-9011.



BUDS AND BLOOMS Winter 2018

VEGGIETALES PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Friday, January 12

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

If you are a Middle schooler or high schooler, please join us Sunday January 21 from 1-3 pm in Harlan Hall for the next Greens & Tweens event.



Dorothy Gale: Somewhere over the rainbow way up high there's a land that I've heard of once in a lullaby.

Dorothy Gale: Toto, I don't think we are in Kansas anymore.

Dorothy Gale: Lions? **The Scarecrow:** And Tigers?

The Tin Woodsman: And bears. **Dorothy Gale:** Oh my!

The Wicked Witch of the West: I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog too!

Glinda the Good Witch: You have no power here! Begone, before somebody drops a house on you, too!

Dorothy Gale: There's no place like home.

Widely considered to be one of the greatest films in cinema history is the 1939 American musical fantasy film otherwise known as the Wizard of Oz. Notable for its use of technicolor, fantasy storytelling, musical score, and memorable characters, it has become an icon of American popular culture.

As we follow the Yellow Brick Road can we find Christ in Cinema? Greens and Tweens please join us in Harlan Hall Sunday January 21st from 1-4 as we take a closer look at the stories they tell and see if we find the face of Jesus looking back. Together we explore the deeper meanings of these films; their plots and their

twists; the characters and their choices; and see how we can relate them to the gospel of salvation and ultimately our Christian walk. We also play Fussball and have pizza. Hope to see you then.

DEACON FOOD PANTRY Items for January

The Deacon's food pantry has a new and very needed addition, Hannah's Pet Food Pantry. Pet food for dogs and cats only are being accepted now. Canned and dry food (due to storage issues please no larger than 10 lb bags). Thank you for always being so generous to the Deacon's Food Pantry.



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.