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Reverend Joseph Hein



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. WNL
2. Taizé Service
Children's Day
3. 60th Anniversary
Security
4. Membership
Mission
6. Nature Preschool
7. Buds and Blooms,
Greens & Tweens
8. Blood Drive
9. Deacons' Food
Pantry
Toon

My Family in Christ,

As Westminster's 60th anniversary celebration approaches (June 9th & 10th) our planning continues at a furious pace. Anniversaries are an occasion to look back and celebrate, but also to look forward.

If someone were to ask you about Westminster, that is, our ministry and what we are doing right now as a community of faith, how would you describe our ministry to them?

Here is my answer. First, I would tell them that **worship** is the center of our life together. I would smile and tell them that our worship is warm, welcoming, spiritual, and gospel-centered.

Second, I would certainly share with them the many good things we do here – our **mission!** We share God's love with others both locally and globally through various ministries including: the PAR Garden; cooking for the poor and homeless at St. Mark's in Keansburg, Family Promise, and the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch; our work with Habitat for Humanity; our Seniors mission through the Hope Bread Program and Senior Dinner; Calico Cat; and supporting the PC (USA) through 4 special offerings.

Next, I might brief the inquirer about how we attempt to "make Christians" at Westminster through our **Christian education program for adults and children**. Bible study is central in the life of our church. Wednesday Night Live and Bible-for-All-Seasons offer a core curriculum of classes on Christian faith and practice. Our Sunday School strives to form, shape, and mold young Christians to be faithful.

Moreover, I think I would mention the extraordinary **Westminster Nature Preschool**. Our preschool is an extension of our ministry (it is a Christian school) and as such it teaches about God's beautiful Creation through its nature curriculum."

Last, I would mention our active participation in **supporting our nation and community** with prayers. Our annual Field of Flags event honors the United States military men and women who died in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. We regularly host community-based prayer vigils in response to current events, and regularly pray for the global persecution of Christians.

I'm very grateful to God to have the opportunity to serve such a vital community of faith, and I'm proud of all that we have accomplished together in the past 10 years. I fully expect that God is preparing big things in the future for us. Please continue to support our ministry with your personal investment, prayers, and financial support as we move into our 61st year in mission and ministry to the Middletown community.

Sincerely, Pastor Joe

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

April 25th - May 23rd

Ten People You Should Know from the Bible.



In this class you will meet in order of appearance ten or so of the Bible's most important people. Of course, limiting the Bible's cast of thousands to 10 is nearly impossible, so we will fudge a little. Please drop in for a fun and relaxed hour of learning about 10 (or so) of the Bible's VIP's!

Wednesday Nite Live is the formal teaching ministry of Westminster Church. A chief goal of our teaching ministry is to offer a core curriculum of classes on the things that we believe Christians should know about their faith. To this end we offer brief courses in Scripture, theology, and spiritual life and practices.

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Wednesday, May 2nd, 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.

CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE

Sunday, May 13th, 10 am

Westminster's Children's Day worship service, typically held on the second Sunday of June, has been moved to Sunday, May 13th at 10 am -Mother's Day - to accommodate Westminster's 60th anniversary service on June 10th.

Our Sunday School children will lead the service and perform a very special mini-musical/play at the sermon. The Sunday School choir will perform.

Games for Westminster's young people will be held at the Annual picnic which will immediately follow our 60th anniversary service on Sunday, June 10th at 10 am.

60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE UPDATE ...

June 8, 2018 marks the official 60th anniversary of the founding of WPC! To celebrate this milestone, we are planning a weekend of worship, praise, fellowship and gratitude.

Please mark your calendars to have dinner on Saturday, 6/09 with your church family at The Colts Neck Inn in Lincroft. Come for fellowship and hors d'oeuvres from 5-6pm, followed by a delicious four course dinner. Dancing begins after dessert!

At Sunday worship on June 10, we will observe the anniversary with a service of praise and thanks for all God has done in and through WPC during these sixty years. We are blessed to have the opportunity to express our gratitude to some of the Founding Members of our church who will be present. Plan to worship with us on this special day!

The celebration continues after worship with the Deacons Annual Picnic. Everyone is encouraged to stay and enjoy this time of fellowship and delicious food. There will be special games and activities for the entire family. Be sure to stay for this wonderful time of relaxation and visiting with members and friends of WPC.

The committee thanks everyone who supported our fundraising efforts. All proceeds from the sale of WPC hats, polo shirts and magnets will be used to defray the per person cost of the June 9 dinner. Dinner invitations will be sent out during the first week of May. You will be asked to indicate your entree choice and reply on or before Sunday, May 20th.

We look forward to seeing all of you at these events! If you have questions or need additional information, contact Monica (evenings 732-615-0628).

WESTMINSTER CAMPUS SECURITY NOTES

Westminster is in the process of applying for the first of a series of NJ Homeland Security grants to improve our campus security. Should Westminster's application be selected, we would receive a \$10,000.00. grant.

Also, a couple of obstacles to a quick evacuation from our Sanctuary in the event of an emergency have been removed from the Choir area. Two large red wooden boxes that were previously used by the choir have been removed thereby eliminating a 12 inch step-up and step-down to exit the Sanctuary via the front stairwells.

The aforementioned front Stairwells have been emptied of items that previously partially blocked the exits.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



WPC's newly formed Membership Committee is busy prepping and planning activities for 2018.

This year's Membership Committee includes Co-Chairs Kim Kosko and Nicholas McGann, Heather D'Arcy, Gwen Ellithorpe, Jessica O'Connor, Kimberly Simon and Lila Vitale. The team will be organizing and running traditional events like the Blue Claws Family Faith Night Baseball Outing, Saint in the Pew Recognition, and Name Tag Sundays. But they'll be focusing on developing new events and activities that will foster fellowship and help the congregation get to know each other better.

Please feel free to email Kim Kosko (kkosko19@gmail.com) or Nick McGann (nickmcgann94@gmail.com) if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities or events for the committee to consider when planning the 2018 schedule. The Membership Committee will be hosting Coffee Hour soon, so everyone can get to meet them. Operating on the "More the Merrier" motto, anyone who would like to be part of helping to plan WPC activities, is more than welcome to join the committee!

MISSION

Monmouth Clinic Christmas Party

After 18 years of spearheading this annual WPC outreach event, Tamy Peyton has decided to take a well-deserved retirement. There must have been well over 6,000 gifts distributed over the years. That's a lot of smiles!! Many thanks to Tamy for her loving dedication to this project and best wishes for new adventures in the future.

So, now the Mission Committee is looking for a new leader for this event. Please prayerfully consider if this just might be the opportunity you have been waiting for. If you think you might be interested, please see Lenita Gullman, Mission Chair.

Feed My Sheep

Please consider joining us at one (or all) of our food outreach events as we try to fulfill a little bit of Jesus' command to Peter.

St. Mark's Soup Kitchen

WPC presented our famous "French Toast Bake" at St. Mark's Soup Kitchen on March 31. This was our second time serving there and it was a big hit (as usual!). A wonderful time was had by all.

St. Mark's serves breakfast 6 days a week and lunch 7 days - yes, even on Sunday. They serve 4,000 meals a month to the needy and are in the middle of a capital campaign to enlarge their kitchen to make it easier to cook.

WPC's next date is Saturday, June 30.

Family Promise

WPC will be providing dinner for the homeless families that will be sheltered at Christ Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 12. The menu will be Mexican, including tacos, refried beans, yellow rice and more. We will be gathering at 3:00 p.m. in the kitchen in Harlan Hall. Please watch for sign-up sheets.

Ronald McDonald House

The Mission Committee has decided to add a new “client” to our cooking adventures. There is a Ronald McDonald house in Long Branch, very close to Monmouth Medical Center.

The Unterberg Children’s Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center offers the highest level of pediatric care for newborns to adolescents, including leading edge treatments and specialized expertise that only a comprehensive children’s hospital can provide. As a dedicated children’s hospital, UCH has a team of pediatric specialists in virtually every area of children’s health, working together to deliver the best solutions for the most complex health problems- around the clock. They are known for innovative treatments, advanced technologies, life-saving care, and unsurpassed dedication to the children and families they serve.

Ronald McDonald House provides a respite for thousands of families with seriously ill children while they receive care at nearby medical facilities. Their Houses and Family Rooms offer comforting surroundings where family members can stay together during a time of uncertainty and stress. Keeping families close allows them to spend more time with their child, interact with their clinical care team and participate in critical medical decisions.

Volunteer teams are asked to become “Caring Cooks” who will provide dinner for the families staying at the house. WPC will be adding two dates to our “cooking calendar” to provide dinner for these families, probably one in July and one in October. Watch for sign-up sheets.

Habitat for Humanity

The Mission Committee is planning to arrange another WPC Habitat for Humanity build opportunity during the summer of 2018. More information to follow. Please watch for dates and sign-up sheets.

PC(USA) Special Offerings

The One Great Hour for Sharing Offering collected on Palm Sunday raised nearly \$500.00. All of these proceeds go to the PC(USA) Disaster, Hunger and Self-Development of People programs.

The next Special Offering is the Pentecost Offering which will be collected on Sunday, May 20, which is (you guessed it) Pentecost. The Pentecost Offering is used to benefit children and youth. 60% of the offering goes to PC(USA) Mission programs and is used for the following:

Child Advocacy	10%
Youth Ministry	25%
Young Adult Volunteer Opportunities	25%

The remaining 40% remains at WPC to be used for local children at risk.

The Mission Committee has focused our physical activities on helping our neighbors in our local communities. The PC(USA) Offerings give us an opportunity to also act globally. Please prayerfully consider participating in this offering and give generously if so moved.

If you have other ideas for community outreach or would like to participate in our ongoing activities, we are always looking for new ideas and new members of the Mission committee. You and/or your ideas would be most welcome!



Westminster Nature Preschool

(732) 671-9011

wmpreschool@gmail.com

wmnaatureschool.org

Westminster Nature Preschool Summer Explorations

Session I - Gardening June 11th to June 14th

Session II - Outdoor Fun June 18th to June 21st

Session III - Camping June 25th to June 28th

Session IV - Cooking July 9th to July 12th

Session V - Music and Movement July 16th to July 19th

Session VI - Theater July 23rd to July 26th

All camps meet Monday through Thursday from 9-12, \$140/week. Camp with lunch (you provide the lunch) is Monday through Thursday from 9 - 1, \$175/week. We will be closed the week of July 2nd. Gardening and water play will be a component of each camp. The program is open to children ages 3 - 6.

For additional information please call the school at (732) 671-9011.



BUDS AND BLOOMS SPRING 2018

VEGGIETALES PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Friday, May 18

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

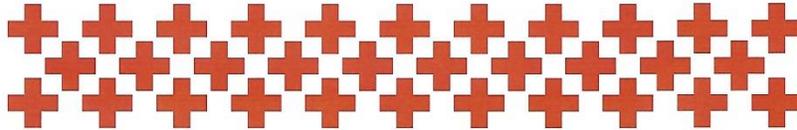
Greens and Tweens will be meeting this on Sunday, May 27th after the church service in Harlan Hall.

SAVE THE DATE

The Faith, Hope Music Festival will be held on Saturday, July 14th. More information to come!

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Westminster
Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall
94 Tindall Road
Middletown, NJ 07748

Thursday, May 31, 2018
3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Please call Pam for an appointment at (732) 615-0637



Scan to schedule

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1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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DEACON FOOD PANTRY

Items for May

Thank you everyone who donated food for the Deacon's Easter Food Baskets. We supplied 17 families with 4 large bags of groceries and a large Ham. We are helping our neighbors as Jesus commanded. Thank you again.

Our pantry shelves are getting bare, please remember us when you shop. Pasta's and Pasta Sauce, Boxed Potatoes, Tuna, Cold Cereal, Plain and Flavored Rice, Canned Vegetables, Mayo, Canned Beef Stew/pasta's, Jelly, Crackers and Peanut butter.

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.



PUZZLE

WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M	N	O
E	F	G	P	R	S
H	I	L	T	U	V

" _____ your _____

and your _____,

the _____ your _____ has

_____."

5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV