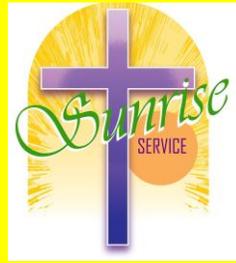


WESTMINSTER WITNESS



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Reverend Joseph Hein



Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed! In this way we greet each other on Easter Sunday. This joyful greeting connects us to Christians who personally witnessed the first Easter, reminding us of the shocking surprise and bursting joy that Christians will always feel at the thought of the Resurrection.

It's easy to understand why the first Christians were absolutely astounded that, hope against hope, their Lord, Savior, and friend was ALIVE. Not that things were ever going to be the same after their Master and friend Jesus rose emerged from the tomb, but their hope was restored and doubly renewed in the most surprising twist to a story ever recorded in history.

While we may have to endure the loss or death of someone or something, we hold dear, or while we may have to grow beyond what makes us comfortable, renewal come to us today in surprising ways in our Christian life. The Risen Christ quietly enters the circumstances of our lives and works hope where there was despair, strength where there was weakness, new life where there was only death.

For Christians, when the blue skies of our lives suddenly cloud up and storms beat upon our homes, we call out to the risen Lord who, by his rising, delivers us from anxiety and terror and gives us the victory that He Himself claimed on the first Easter.

The victory of the Cross was confirmed on the first Easter and has been reaffirmed in the millennia since. Love is openly shown to be stronger than hatred and life to be stronger than death. Because Christ is risen, we need no longer be afraid of any dark or evil force because love, life and hope live at the center of the Universe.

Pastor Joe

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND EVENTS AT WESTMINSTER



Palm Sunday, April 14th, 10:00am - Holy Week begins with a joyful re-presentation of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and a dramatic reading of St. Luke's passion.

Holy Wednesday, April 17th, 6:30pm - Seder Meal. Please join us for an intimate "Christian Seder Meal" which celebrates God's mighty action in delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.



Maundy Thursday, April 18th, 7:30pm. On Maundy Thursday Westminster commemorates the Institution of the Eucharist and the giving of the Lord's new commandment to "love one another." A dramatic stripping of the altar will be featured.



Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil, 9:00pm to midnight. In a darkened candlelit Sanctuary with sacred music, we participate in Jesus' passion in the Garden of Gethsemane as the events of our salvation unfold. You are invited to sign up for one hour of prayer and reflection.

Good Friday, April 19th, noon. On this most solemn day, our worship will focus on the reading of St. John's account of the Passion of our Lord, solemn prayers for the world, and the Adoration of the Cross.



Easter Sunday, April 21st, Easter "Sunrise" Service, 7 am. Come to the PAR Garden to celebrate the Resurrection at first light.



Easter Sunday Traditional Service, 10am. With the fragrance of Easter lilies perfuming our Sanctuary, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection with trumpets, soloist, and joyous songs of victory.

NEW!!!

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE **April 21st, 7 am, PAR Garden**

It is believed that after Jesus' crucifixion and death that he was for 3 days temporarily entombed in the Garden Tomb outside of the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

On Easter Sunday morning, just after dawn, we are doing something new and inviting the congregation to gather in the PAR Garden (like the Garden Tomb, ya know?) for a brief 30-minute happy celebration of our Lord's resurrection. Come as you are and give thanks to the Lord of Life with quiet prayers of thanks and a couple of happy songs and a brief retelling of Resurrection Story! Then go home, have breakfast and come

back for our full-blown traditional celebration of Easter at 10 am. See you in the Garden on Easter!!! Christ is Risen!

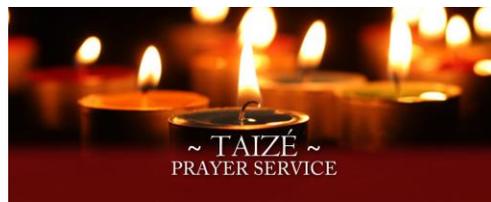
WHATS HAPPENING AT WPC

NURSERY CARE

For those of you who may not be aware, Sasha Wyman is our new highly qualified, gentle and caring Nursery Attendant. Unfortunately, the Nursery is not being used and is being paid for every week. We encourage you to stop in and meet Sasha and take advantage of our beautiful, clean, and safe nursery.

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Wednesday, April 3, 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.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship and evangelism are related to each other. We have a light to shine and we must not put it under a bushel (Matt 5:15). The simplicity of the task and the gravity of its importance appear mismatched. We must tell our story because it has the power to transform lives. Transformed lives have the power to change the world. Failure to be a steward of the gospel not only risks others not coming to know its power, but for the story to not reach future generations. It is not about our own survival, yet we acknowledge that something in the wider stream of Christian thought and witness will be lost without our tributary adding to its ever-flowing river.

The Disciples of Christ tradition has long lifted the ministry of Andrew as “one who brings others to Christ” (John 1:41). In story after story we learn that, despite Jesus’

urging to do otherwise, those who witness his power and are moved by his teachings are compelled to share the story of Jesus with others. To encounter Christ is to encounter an experience worth sharing.

During the Lenten season share the story of Christ with someone. Let them know that Christ is there for them and that all of us at Westminster Presbyterian Church is a place of comfort and support.

John Pillarella
Stewardship Chair.

PAR GARDEN

Spring has sprung and it is time to prepare the garden for 2019 planting. On Saturday April 6th we will be cleaning out the shed, repairing the rabbit fencing and cleaning the garden beds. Our goal is to supply fresh produce to St. Marks Soup Kitchen and for the first time have a Farm Market set up on various Sundays for our own congregation to partake in the garden's bounty.

This year the garden will be a teaching garden for those who would like to learn how to begin their own gardens, how to compost and general vegetable gardening.

We are looking at ways to get children and their families to become interested in gardening. More on this coming soon.

The Par Garden Committee consists of John Alonso, John Cuttrel, Mike Ellithorpe, Lenita Gullman, Ann and Rick Holbert, Lola and John Pillarella.

The Par Garden is a major mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church and is a group effort. If you are interested in planting or especially helping to harvest (which will be done on a daily basis this year) please speak to anyone on the Par Garden Committee.

MISSION

As part of our stewardship drive, the Mission Committee would like to highlight some of the places where \$\$ are spent and opportunities for you to contribute your *time and talents* to the missions of WPC.

FAMILY PROMISE OF MONMOUTH COUNTY



Family Promise of Monmouth County works with community agencies, faith-based services, churches and synagogues to provide shelter, food, transportation and supportive services including case management for homeless families. The network is made up of host congregations who

have pledged the use of their facilities and the participation of volunteer members and support congregations who provide additional volunteers and support. Each host congregation provides shelter a week at a time approximately 4 times a year.

Each year, FPMC provides roughly 12,597 meals and 5,110 bed-nights for families in need. Family Promise of Monmouth County relies on more than 1200 volunteers to provide the services necessary to sustain families in crisis. While families are living in the network, volunteers have opportunities to provide assistance 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Volunteers who directly serve guests reduce program expenses through the gift of their time and/or donations. They share meals and sometimes stay overnight. Volunteers plan and manage recreational activities, such as birthday parties, holiday celebrations and sporting events. They tutor school age children.

WPC participates in Family Promise as a support congregation for the host congregation, Christ Episcopal Church. We provide dinner for the homeless families being sheltered by Christ Church on the Saturday evening of the weeks they are hosting. On those Saturdays, we meet in Harlan Hall at 3:00 p.m. and cook a complete dinner (and occasionally something simple to leave for breakfast) and deliver the food to Christ Church by 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us including children at least 10 years of age. Our next commitment is Saturday, May 18.

Music from Westminster!



Two new concerts in our concert series are coming to WPC! On Sunday, May 5th at 3pm, we are privileged to host professional violinist Raphael Klayman in concert. Mr. Klayman has played extensively both in the US as well as internationally in various leading orchestras and chamber ensembles. His recital here will feature music of Beethoven, Bach, Kreisler, and more!



The second concert will be Sunday, June 2nd at 3pm featuring WPC's own Erika Sayar, former music director Jessica Kortenhaus, and professional organist Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth. They will perform works for organ and piano duet, piano solos as well as 4-hand piano duets. Look for classic audience favorites as well as some of our personal favorites!

These concerts are free to attend but there is a suggested donation of \$10 to help fund future community outreach events, like our POW violin program, the coffeehouses and the festival. Thank you for your support!

CROSSROAD CAFÉ



Our best attended coffeehouse yet, this year's Spring Crossroads Café brought in about 85 people from our congregation as well as from neighboring churches and towns. This free (but donations welcome!) community outreach event is designed to bring us together as Christians where we can feel united in our love of Christ through inspirational music without the pressures of daily life weighing us down. How wonderful to see that exact thing happen here at WPC! Stay tuned for more info on upcoming events and save the date for the outdoor festival- Saturday, September 7th, 4-7pm!



WESTMINSTER NATURE PRESCHOOL

(732) 671-9011

wmpreschool@gmail.com

wmnatureschool.org

Westminster Nature Preschool Summer Explorations

Session I - Gardening June 10 to June 13

Session II - Things that Wiggle June 17 to June 20

Session III - Sports Fun June 24 to June 27

Session IV - More Sports Fun July 8t to July 11

Session V - Cooking July 15t to July 18

Session VI - Music and Movement July 22 to July 25

Gardening and water play will be a component of each camp.

All camps meet Monday through Thursday from 9-12. Tuition for each week session is \$140. Camp with lunch is 9-1 Monday through Thursday, tuition is \$175 per week. (You provide lunch). Camp will be closed the week of July 1st.

There is a \$25 deposit required for each session.

The program is open to children ages 3 - 6 years. *Westminster members receive a tuition discount of 10%.

Please visit wmnatureschool.org for a downloadable enrollment form.

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

DEACON FOOD PANTRY
Items for April

Soup, Hot Cereal, Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Vegetables, Pancake Mixes, Tuna, Mayo, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Juice Boxes (no sugar added).

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, Alyssa Cuttrell, 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 Alyssa Cuttrell.



EASTER PUZZLE

Puzzle!

Follow the arrows and fill in the blanks to discover what the women found at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning.

T

BEGIN ▶

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◀ END

Answer: The stone was rolled away from the door.
 An angel said to them, "He is not here; he has risen!"
 (See Luke 24:1-8.)