

# WESTMINSTER WITNESS

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Reverend Joseph Hein



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Dear Friends,

We welcome the year 2019 in the name of the Lord to whom we belong. Happy New Year!

Christians should be the most joyful people on earth. Why? Because we have the joy of being forgiven. Forgiveness is the heart of the good news Jesus brings us – the very root of Christian joy. Forgiveness is a joy like the joy of a prisoner when his sentence is pardoned or someone who has been delivered from an “incurable” disease. And it belongs to every person who believes that Jesus lived, died, and was raised for them.

The second reason for Christian joy is because the Lord walks with us. From the moment God called Abraham to follow him, God has been in our midst. God walks with us in the midst of our trials, difficulties, our greatest joys, and in every moment of our lives. For this reason, we should take time every day to speak with the Lord who is by our side and involved in our daily life.

And the last reason the we Christians should be joyful is the hope that springs from the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Hope is often thought of as “wishful thinking,” but believers who trust or put their hope in God will be helped! Every moment of our lives, every difficult problem and situation, is subject to change because Christ is Risen and on the move in the world and our lives. So, Christians are optimists, not wishful thinkers, and certainly not pessimists! We are a people of confident expectation!!

Happy New Year my friends! Be joyful today and make every effort to show that we believe because we are forgiven; because the Lord is in our midst, walking with us in every moment; and because we will not allow ourselves to throw up our arms in despair because of our belief and hope that Christ is Risen! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

In Christian joy,  
Pastor Joe

## WHATS HAPPENING AT WPC

### STAR 99.1 SOCK DROP

Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) is putting its best foot forward for the New Year to help those in need by partnering with Star 99.1 FM to collect warm socks for the homeless throughout the month of January. Star 99.1 has asked WPC to sponsor the project by serving as a key drop off point in Monmouth County for the sock donations.

Socks are the least donated clothing items. Regardless of the season, they are always the #1 need especially in homeless shelters. Many of the homeless have only one pair of socks and living on the street have no way to wash them. Walking is their only mode of transportation. Year-round, socks go a long way to ensure the health and well-being of men, women and children living on the street. While all socks are appreciated, **new and heavyweight tube socks** are desperately needed given the current cold weather!

Star 99.1 is working directly with the *The River Mission*, to distribute the socks, one of the most basic of needs to those in the direst of need. The socks can be dropped in the Sock Drop Laundry Basket in the WPC vestibule behind the blue doors, 24/7 throughout month of January.

### MEET OUR NEW NURSERY ATTENDANT

This past Sunday, **Sasha Wyman**, a junior at Middletown South High School, started her term as Westminster's new paid Nursery Attendant. Sasha is warm, competent, and mature beyond her years. She brings with her CPR and First Aid certification and experience in the use of our AED (defibrillator) equipment.

Sasha is also a volunteer at Riverview Hospital in the neo-natal unit. She is looking forward to a career in the nursing field. We warmly welcome Sasha and encourage Westminster parents to stop by and meet our new nursery attendant.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

**A New Bible Study of the Gospel of Luke beginning January 16**

Studying the life of Jesus is like looking at a diamond. There are many facets to a diamond and as you observe it from different angles, you get various perspectives on its beauty.

In this study we will focus on Jesus as revealed in Gospel of Luke as a teacher of heavenly truth, a facet of his life that not only gives insight into the heart of God, but gives right direction for our lives.

Please join us for the next 6 Wednesdays at 7:30 pm as we study the life of Jesus.

## **WESTMINSTER ANNUAL MEETING**

Westminster's Annual meeting to elect new officers, review the annual budget, and hear committee reports will be held on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship in the Sanctuary.

## **W.O.W. LADIES NIGHT OUT**

Twelve adventurous W.O.W. (Women of Westminster) gathered for "Ladies Night Out" music and devotions event at our neighbors New Monmouth Baptist Church. Word is that it was a lot of fun! Future events for W.O.W. are in the works.

## **SECURITY DOORS PROJECT UPDATE**

A representative from the Security Committee has remained in contact with Emikay, but the Session will shortly assume management of the project to enable the Security Committee to continue their work on related projects. There is no new information to report.

## **MISSION OPPORTUNITY**

Family Promise

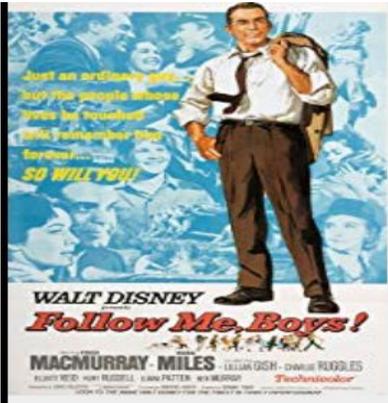
Mission Committee will be preparing dinner for the homeless on Saturday, February 2 at 3 pm. Please join in on this Mission opportunity.

## **DEACON'S THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Christmas Food Baskets. We were able to feed 15 families. We gave each family 3 full bags of food. We also offered them a ham or turkey for their Christmas meal. The Sunday school children made for each family homemade packages of hot chocolate. Our families love the gifts from the children. Thank you again, Pam Wayde, Deacon Moderator



## reens & TWEENS



### **Follow Me, Boys! 1966**

In a nutshell, an outsider named Lemuel Siddons wants so badly to become part of the community he volunteers to become the scoutmaster of a new Boy Scout troop...and over 40 years watches his scouts, their kids and grandkids all follow the path he blazed. He and the community come to realize he is part of them, and that he has become far more important in the grand scheme of life by guiding others to be good citizens/neighbors than he ever might have done by being a famous attorney.

**"Jimmy: Holy jumpin' blue-eyed cow!"**

**"Hetty Cutler Seibert: No one is ever alone who has something good to remember."**

**"Melody Murphy: Sellin' candy to kids, what could be more honest. You want roots? A place like this, you could grow yourself down to China."**

**"P.O.W. Sergeant: What do we do with him now, Lieutenant?"**

**"P.O.W. Lieutenant: Show him how to tie a sheepshank and let him go."**

**This Greens & Tweens is open to greens, teens, senior citizens and everyone in between! Please join us in Harlan Hall following church on Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please wear your Scout Uniform if you have it. We will be making pocket stews and watching the Disney Classic Follow Me, Boys! Then have a group discussion to see if there are any tie ins to changing plans and divine missions.**

If you would like to help please contact **Amy Weston at 732-233-5705**, by email at [a.weston00@gmail.com](mailto:a.weston00@gmail.com) or thru the church office if you have any questions.

## DEACON FOOD PANTRY

### Items for January

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, 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.

### **2019 PER CAPITA**

As members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, our allotment for 2019 is \$40.00/member. In your envelope box, there is an envelope marked per capita. Remember that the \$40.00 allotment is per member, so a husband and wife team would be expected to pay \$80.00.