

WESTMINSTER WITNESS

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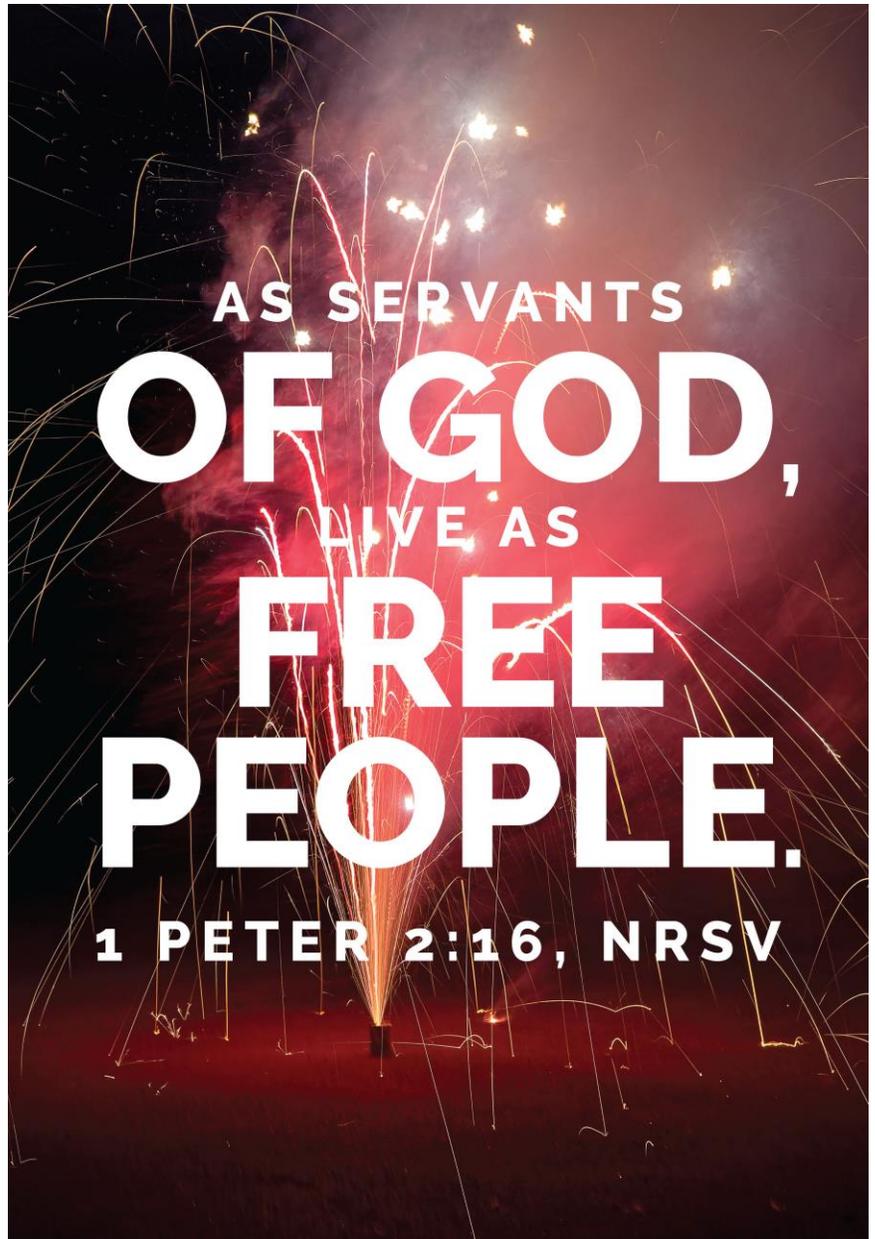
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My Family in Christ,

We assume many identities in life. As children we assume the name and role our parents give to us. Then we become students. After school, hopefully, we assume an identity in our respective professions and workplaces, usually marry and have children; and then if we're lucky, have grandchildren.

But if we are in Christ, joined to Him by faith, our deepest identity lies in being a Christian. All other pledges of allegiance come after that. In Jesus, we have one final allegiance, and thus in this world we will always be, in some real sense, pilgrims, strangers and aliens, sojourners, and exiles (1 Peter 2:11). Like E.T., we're always longing to go home (read heaven).

This sense of identity as belonging first to Christ, and by extension, to the worldwide household of Christian faith, was very much present at the Service of Prayer for Persecuted Christians. Though we have many differences with those who gathered for the service, we have one great and most important similarity - Jesus Christ - the author of our salvation.

Ethnic, cultural, and racial differences disappeared for one glorious summer afternoon as we bonded together listening to stories of the persecution and suffering of our Christian family told by the various pastors. The Holy Spirit moved in and among us to bind us together in a common conviction to help Christians in various parts of the world whom we likely will never meet.

Our identities in Christ were sealed over a wonderful dinner hosted by our Deacons and Membership Teams. Our goal was to spiritually and materially aid our brothers and sisters through prayer; and by collecting school supplies for Christian schools in Nigeria that systematically have been destroyed by Boko Haram (which means, Western education is forbidden).

Thanks to your generosity, and the generosity of St Mina's Coptic Orthodox Church, we have collected enough notebooks, pens, pencils, backpacks to fill an entire garage! No kidding! Pastor Sam Malomo of Edison and the organization, Unto All Nations Ministries, is coordinating the storage and transportation of the school supplies with Fr. Wassef of St Minas.

Further, St. Catherine's Roman Catholic church of Middletown, has donation \$1000.00 to the coalition of pastors, priests, and congregations that have joined together to aid our Christian family in all the world.

We belong first to Christ, and to the worldwide fellowship of Christians. How blest are we to belong to such a wonderful and transcendent family?

Sincerely,
Pastor Joe

WESTMINSTER'S 2019-2000 SUNDAY SCHOOL

With the retirement of 3 key Sunday School teachers next year's (beginning in September) Sunday School will have a very different form of organization. Returning to a previous form of Sunday School administration, a Christian Education Team, consisting of current and former teachers, has been formed to create and guide policy. No longer will the Christian Education committee consist solely of current teachers.

The new CE committee will be staffed by Chris Harris, the present CE Chair, Mike Ellithorpe, a professional Educator and former Sunday School teacher, Carol Neary (longtime former teacher) and Stacy McGann (a current teacher).

Many new ideas are being considered as teacher recruitment takes place. Please pray about volunteering to teach or assist in the 2019-2020 Westminster Sunday School. Please see Chris Harris if you feel led to teach or help out.



Sunday, July 14th

Topic: Caregiving

Presented by: Carol Schoenberger, RN
Community Outreach, Hackensack Meridian

Sponsored by the WPC Membership Committee

Faith and Family Night 2019!



Hey batter, batter, batter! Better mark your calendar now for Thursday, August 8th. That's when WPC will attend Faith and Family Night at Blueclaws Stadium in Lakewood for its Annual Baseball Outing. All tickets are \$10. Seniors Eat Free! Details will be posted on the Facebook Page, announced in church, and placed in the church bulletin as the date gets closer. Sign Up sheets are posted in the Narthex and on the bulletin board in Harlan Hall.

Stewardship

Please remember to keep you pledges current over the summer as the bills keep coming in.

Summer Hymn Favorites!

New this summer! There is a drop box in the Narthex where congregants may request their favorite hymns to appear during Sunday services this summer. Have a favorite that you'd love to share with your fellow congregants? Know the words but not the title or the hymn number? Make a request and Director of Music, Erika, will search it out!

MISSION

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

PC(USA) SPECIAL OFFERINGS

WPC participates in the special offerings sponsored by the PC(USA) Mission Agency. There are four annually.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The proceeds from OGHS are used around the world to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help to empower the poor and oppressed.

Pentecost

The Pentecost Offering is used to encourage, develop and support young people and address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the offering is retained by individual congregations for use in their own communities. 60% is used to support the following ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- Young Adult Volunteers
- Ministries for Youth
- Children-at-Risk

Peace & Global Witness

25% of the Peace & Global Witness Offering is retained by individual congregations and 25% is retained by the Presbyteries for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Christmas Joy

The Christmas Joy Offering is used to provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color through the following programs:

- The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions
- Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color
- Leadership Development for People of Color

The Mission Committee decides what to do locally with the funds that remain with WPC.

