

WESTMINSTER WITNESS

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My Family in Christ,

Christians are a Resurrection people and Hope is our song. As we continue the celebration of Easter, I want to thank the hundreds of people who came to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday and Holy Week. Your faithful presence on Easter Sunday and Holy Week perpetuates our Christian faith and spreads the power and hope of the Resurrection in family and community life.

In these 50 days between Easter and Pentecost (June 9th) you will hear the weekly readings from the Acts of the Apostles. Written by St. Luke, the Acts of the Apostles can sometimes be referred to as the Gospel of the Holy Spirit as it records the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the first disciples and Christian community.

At Westminster, there are many opportunities provided to “act” in the power of the Holy Spirit during the 50 days of Easter and the season of Pentecost. The **Deacon’s bi-annual Red Cross Blood Drive** will take place on Thursday, May 30th from 2-9:30 pm in Harlan Hall. Your donation will help to heal members of our community.

We acted in the power of the Holy Spirit at our monthly **Taizé worship service** where we prayed at length for the victims and families of the 3 Christian communities in Sri Lanka; the students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte; and the Poway Synagogue who were attacked by severely disordered people.

On Sunday, June 30th, the Worship Committee will host the second **Prayer Service for Persecuted Christians**. We are in the early stages of planning, but your participation and prayers will be needed as Westminster will step up to be a voice for voiceless Christians who suffer persecution for their Christian faith on a daily basis.

Have a blessed week!

Pastor Joe



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WHATS HAPPENING AT WPC

CHILDREN'S DAY (June 2nd) AND CHURCH PICNIC (June 9th)

Westminster's annual celebration of **Children's Day** where our young people participate in leading worship and present the Gospel message through music in the context of a play, will take place this year on Sunday, June 2nd during the 10 am worship service.

Normally, Children's Day is followed by the annual church picnic. Because of liturgical considerations, the celebration of Children's Day and the annual church picnic have been separated. **The annual picnic this year will follow worship on Sunday, June 9th - the Day of Pentecost.** Games and activities for the children - including a softball game for the kids - will take place during the church picnic as they have in the past, but one week removed from Children's Day. Parents, please bring bats and gloves for the kids on June 9th!

Sunday School classes will meet on June 9th before the picnic.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST JUNE 9TH

The Day of Pentecost, together with Christmas and Easter, are the crown jewels of the of the Christian Year. The Day of Pentecost, is the culmination of the Easter celebration: the risen Christ, having shown himself to his disciples and having ascended, sends the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to His waiting Church. The color of the day is bright red, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Westminster will celebrate this great day with a festive service including special music, trumpets, and a special Pentecost message. The annual church picnic with activities and games for the children will immediately follow on the Great Lawn. You are invited to wear your Westminster tee-shirts (dress casually) for the picnic and fun to follow!

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 Kortenhuis, 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!

PAR GARDEN

Its planting time in Westminster's model PAR garden! Our garden supplies fresh vegetables to St. Mark's Soup Kitchen in Keansburg which serves hundreds of needy folks on a weekly basis.

Lots of help is needed to plant and maintain our beautiful garden. Please set aside a Saturday morning each month to volunteer in the garden. John or Lola Pillarella are initiating a Junior gardener program for children where they will learn to plant and tend a garden plot. Please speak to John or Lola to learn how you can help. Let's support the ministry of our garden to the local poor.

DEACONS SEMI ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Please consider donating blood on Thursday, May 30, 2018 with the Red Cross. Our blood drive in October was very successful. As a community we had 23 successful donors and had 8 first time donors.

You can donate Whole blood which takes only 1 hour and you will be eligible to donate every 56 days.

A Power Red donation is a concentration of red blood cells. It take 1 ½ hours and you can donate every 112 days. If you donated a Power Red on May 30, you are eligible to donate another Power Red during our October 3 drive.



**American
Red Cross**

Signing up online is easy at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. You may also sign up with the Deacons in Harlan Hall each Sunday preceding May 30th.

Together, we can save a life The Red Cross makes the donation process easy and efficient. You can speed up the process by completing your pre-reading and health history questions online using any device, before visiting your blood drive location on the day of your donation. So on May 30th Just login in to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and complete the **RapidPass**. Please bring your proof of completing the **RapidPass** with you to the drive.

TEN CHILDREN RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION ON EASTER

Our beautifully decorated Sanctuary was packed and smelled of lilies on Easter Sunday morning as our church family shared the joy and excitement of 10 children who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. The children were seated in the front 3 pews reserved for them and their families. Their names were read before the service.

The ten children who completed the Instruction in Holy Communion class are: Aubrey Borchers, Tyler Borchers, Liam D'Arcy, Matt Deily, Leia DiChiara, Aubrey DiChiara, Sam Gluck, Page Harris, Olivia Miller, and Palmer Peyton.

PROPERTY REPORT

Improvements to Harlan Hall have been scheduled. It's floor and hallways will be professionally stripped and waxed on Friday, June 21st to help preserve the condition of the floor and to give it a clean and bright luster.

Westminster is in the process of contracting with Fiori Construction to repair the cracks, seal, and re-line the parking lot later this summer.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Sunday, June 30th, 4 pm

Planning has just begun for the second Prayer Service for Persecuted Christians. You will remember the first Prayer Service as Westminster brought together St. Mina's Orthodox (Coptic) Christian Church in Holmdel, St. Stepanos Orthodox Armenian Church in Long Branch, and our neighbors at St Mary's RC Church - all under our roof. The Sanctuary was packed and filled with hope and unity as we stood shoulder to

shoulder with our fellow Christians as they related their personal stories of persecution and struggle.

Christians remain one of the most persecuted religious groups in the world. While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Christ.

Our service aims to bring attention to the issue of Christian persecution in the world and to establish our church family as a leader in being a voice for the voiceless. Details will follow.



STEWARDSHIP

In addition to the Easter story, Psalm 118 provides rich material to reflect on stewardship. It starts with this celebration: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! A fair question to ask would be, how do we give thanks? In light of God's steadfast love for us, what does gratitude look like? You could continue this theme reflecting on other lines of the Psalm: I thank you that you answered me and have become my salvation. If we recognize that God is our salvation, and we are celebrating Christ's resurrection and triumph over death on

Easter morning, how do we thank God for answering us and becoming our salvation. One way to that God is through generously giving our time, talent and treasure. That is how we can show gratitude for God's love and grace for us, celebrated on Easter morning.

The Psalm closes with: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. What does our rejoicing look like? How do we thank God for this day that God has made, the blessing of another day on this earth? If we can see each day as a blessing, particularly through the lens of Easter morning, our response to that blessing can be one of joy and gratitude, which can be expressed through generosity.

John Pillarella
Stewardship Chair.



WESTMINSTER NATURE PRESCHOOL

(732) 671-9011

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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 May

Rice, plain or brown; mayonnaise, tuna or chicken, hot/cold cereal, pancake mixes, syrup, vegetables, potatoes, ketchup, relish and mustard.

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.



A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call