

WESTMINSTER WITNESS



June 2020
Volume 1 Issue 6

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In just a couple of days, we will celebrate the great Day of Pentecost, the close of Easter Time. In reality, Pentecost is more about an opening — the opening of every member of the Church to a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

On the first Pentecost, the arrival of the Holy Spirit on the first Day of Pentecost gave birth to the real presence of the Risen Lord in his Word, in the Sacraments, and in the mission of every Christian. As we begin to move carefully out of the isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and once again safely assemble in outdoor in-person worship as the Church with our Risen Lord, we are called to be open to the same Holy Spirit who resides in the hearts of all who believe.

I am hopeful as we gradually return to our way of life as a community of faith, that we can do so as a stronger and more vibrant Presbyterian Christian community. For some of you this coming home is as simple as returning to our church campus for *outdoor in-person or drive-in worship in your cars*. For others, who have been occasional in the practice of the faith, this coming home is a *new commitment* to be more faithful in following the Lord. For some others, who have become reacquainted with the Church through *virtual worship* during the pandemic, this coming home may be a larger step and we are ready to welcome you. It is time for all to come home, renewed by the Holy Spirit!

I am thankful to all of the faithful who held fast to living their faith in creative ways, especially without the possibility of participating in in-person worship in our Sanctuary. As we open Westminster on Sunday for outdoor worship on the Day of Pentecost, I am filled with great joy and hope to see you, gathered once again and prepared to hear the Word of God and receive Holy Communion.

The Holy Spirit wants to breathe new life into all of us, his community of missionary disciples. Let us respond together with a deeper faith and a joyful heart. Let us respond with a willingness to express this faith in our lives and to share it with those the Lord has placed around us. Be assured of my prayers for you as I rely on your prayers for me.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Joe

WESTMINSTER POP-THE TRUNK FOOD DRIVE 2.0



A second Westminster food drive to support the unemployed and struggling during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis will take place tomorrow (Saturday) from 1-3 pm in the church parking lot. The food drive will follow the same plan or action as the original event.

Those who donate are invited to place their non-perishable food donations in the trunk of their car and roll slowly into our parking lot. A masked and gloved WPC volunteer will greet and ask you to pop the trunk of your car. A joyful volunteer will remove your donation and close the trunk.

Donations will be received on Saturday from 1-3 and throughout the week at the designated food drop table placed outside of Harlan Hall.

All donations will be distributed from WPC's parking lot on the following Saturday, June 6th, from 1-3 pm to all who have need of them.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!



Our Westminster community of faith offers our warmest congratulations to Middletown High School graduates, Caroline McGann, Ryan Kane, and James Davis. Caroline McGann has received an athletic scholarship for swimming and plans to attend Bucknell University. James Davis has received an athletic scholarship for soccer and plans to study at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Late congratulations to Megan Neary who received her Masters in Occupational Therapy from the University of Scranton on May 21st.

LIVE STREAMED TAIZÉ SERVICE Wednesday, June 3rd, 7:00 pm



You are invited to participate in Westminster's unique meditative Taizé worship service from our candlelit Sanctuary on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7 pm. Taizé worship is a prayerful worship service that speaks to the heart. It is known for its meditative character set within a candlelit prayer service.

Taizé worship set simple phrases from the Psalms or other Scriptural verses to a simple melody and repeats them three or more times to aid meditation and prayer. The melodies are so simple that most people are able to sing or hum the verse after one verse.

Candles are lit during the time of prayer to represent our God's presence and light which penetrates the darkness of the world.

There are 2 Scripture readings followed by a one minute period of silence for reflection. A simple form of Holy Communion is offered.

Please join us for this unique service that fills the heart and mind with God's peace.



Thank you to the many of you who continue to financially support our ministry. We know that many of you are under duress during this Coronavirus crisis and we greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity in paying your pledges forward and putting God first.

WORSHIP

Our Sunday worship will continue to be live streamed to Facebook and YouTube at 10 am. In the short term we will continue with abbreviated services, but on the 1st Sunday of each month, we will offer a full-length service and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Holy Communion supplies, that is, the prepackaged and sealed communion wafer and communion glass, are abundantly available in the church office. Please call ahead 732.671.2585 to pick up.



WESTMINSTER **PAR Garden** NEWS

We are delighted to share the good news that every raised bed in our beautiful organic PAR garden has been planted and is beginning to grow.

We are delighted that we are joined in the garden this year by a group of teachers from **Middletown High School North** who have taken 6 beds under their expert care. Also, we are joined by the good folks from the non-profit **No Limits Café** which is staffed by developmentally disabled individuals who will be involved in the day to day care of our garden. Last, we welcome **Boy Scout Troop 122** under the leadership of member Chris Harris has also assumed responsibility for one raised bed.

The vegetables from our beautiful garden will continue to support the breakfast and lunch ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal who feed the poor in Keansburg from their kitchen and dining hall.

DEACONS BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE



Congratulations to Westminster's Deacons who teamed up with WPC session members on Thursday, May 7th to collect **41 units of blood** from community members to support our local hospitals during the COVID 19 pandemic.

