



The Voice of Westminster

We are a servant church, nurturing each other's spiritual journey and personal gifts. All are welcome!

July 2020

We Gather Together

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1). So begins the account of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church, which we celebrated on May 31, 2020. Even though we have not been able to be altogether in one place, we have still been the church. As we have noted before, this pandemic has clearly reminded us that the church is not the building; we are the church.

March 15, 2020, was the last time we worshipped together in person. At that time we could not imagine how greatly this coronavirus would affect the world, and disrupt life as usual. Now three- and one-half months later, we are anticipating the opportunity to reopen, and offer in- person worship. August 2 is our target date. While some may begin to attend public worship in person, we know that some will need to continue to worship at home via our online worship, as the pandemic is still far from being over. We give thanks for the promise of our faith—that the Lord God will bless and keep us, the risen Christ is with us, and the Holy Spirit connects us with believers near and far.

As our leadership considers this reopening of worship, (currently, not the reopening of all activities), please know that we will do so through a careful process of discernment and discussion. We will further approach this time with an abundance of caution and concern for those most vulnerable, consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in the spirit of prayer, and with the full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

We may make mistakes along the way. There may be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices (details will be forthcoming). There will be times of frustration, disappointment, and even times of grief. We will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual fruit of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

But there will also be blessings, surprises, great celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction where we will see God doing a new thing. Let us be faithful, then---to God and to each other, as we receive the gifts, and work through the challenges of this time in the life of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God, remembering that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Roger



L&F Changes Hours

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry has changed its hours to better accommodate their current distribution process. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, volunteers are bagging food items and giving them to clients outside in order to maintain social distancing. The new hours are:

Tuesdays

2-4:50 p.m.

July Needs at L&F

Canned tuna or chicken

Mayo

BBQ sauce

Shampoo

Also, if you have 4th of July items, drop them by the church or L&F by Tuesday afternoon, June 30.



Tents, facial masks and social distancing-all part of Loaves & Fishes during this COVID spring and summer.



Hold the Egg Cartons, Bring On the Bags

Our volunteers have asked that you put a hold on bringing in any more egg cartons for the time being. We appreciate everybody's efforts in meeting an earlier shortfall. Pantry Director, Jan Kosowski, says the pantry still needs plastic bags. You can drop these off at the church or on Tuesday afternoon at the mission house. Thank you for supporting this important mission.

Session Notes

Westminster Session met via Zoom for its regular meeting on June 16. Pastor Roger opened the meeting with prayer and asked members the question, "What does the Bible say about justice?" Passages from Micah, Luke and Matthew were read and discussed.

Session took action on the following items:

- After lengthy discussion regarding CDC and Presbytery recommendations, Session approved a target date of Aug. 2 for resumption of in-church services, with precautions. An ad hoc committee will meet July 8, to formulate worship specifics, with Session voting on the recommendations at their July meeting.
- Session approved creation of a second paid nursery attendant, as recommended by the Personnel Committee. This has been necessitated by insurance company requirements that include training for all who work with children and the requirement that there be two adults in the room.
- Session approved a recommendation by the Property Committee to have the roofing replaced on the garage.
- Session elected officers:

President, Ann Buckheister

Treasurer, John Swanson

Secretary/Clerk, Kathie Lane

Pro-tem Clerk, Pam Richardson

- Jim Shanklin volunteered to be the Session delegate to the Presbytery meeting (on Zoom) on July 11. Pam Richards will serve as alternate.

The meeting closed with Pam Richardson leading the closing prayer. The next regular meeting will be July 21 at 6:30 p.m.



City Manager's 1 BAG CHALLENGE



Westminster Takes the 1 Bag Challenge

Westminster took on the challenge of helping to clean up the neighborhood on Saturday, June 20. It was part of the City Manager's 1-Bag Challenge. The city provided bags and gloves. Westminster provided the human power. Nancy Evans, Mark Tyler, Barb and Ed Mumford, Val and Loren Neubauer, Pastor Roger, Paul Kongshaug, Cael, Micah and Hanna Kongshaug provided the help.

Our volunteers noted that some people in the neighborhood thanked them for helping. The group spent two hours on the task and brought back about 10 large bags of trash. Thank you Westminsterites for helping out!



General Assembly (GA) Begins

The PCUSA GA held its first plenary session on Friday, June 19th, with full sessions on June 26th and 27th. PCUSA is the first denomination to hold a virtual (via Zoom) general assembly so the eyes of the other denominations are upon this event. The national Office of the GA has worked tirelessly to plan and prepare for this virtual event and Commissioners, such as our own Jan Kosowski, have been participating in a long series of Zoom events in preparation as well. Both the Corona pandemic and the Black Lives Matter events have occurred in the last several months and the PCUSA is attempting to address these issues in timely manner via a virtual GA - huge challenge! The PCUSA has a long history of taking an anti-racism stance but many are wanting to reaffirm our position with overtures at the GA. It is a challenge because it simply is not possible to have open discussions AND accomplish necessary work for the church to function via a big Zoom meeting without side Committees being able to meet and bringing vetted motions to the floor. Please pray for the nearly 1,000 virtual attendees of the GA so that all God's work is accomplished.



July Birthdays

Vic Naxera	1
James Boardman	3
James Shanklin, Jr	7
Carly Warner	7
Bernie Tiede	9
Samantha Johnson	11
Sara Tyler	11
Dave Leeper	14
John Roof	16
Pam Richardson	17
Don McKee	19
Dick Trotter	21
Dorothy Harlan	26
Bud Kudart	27
Lemi Tilahun	28
Jean Kenison	29
Don Damsteegt	31

Special Thank-You

Westminster's Session would like to thank everyone who has continued to send in their offerings during this unusual time. As you know, the expenses and work of the church exist even when we aren't able to meet together.

If your work or income situation has changed during this virus pandemic, we understand and appreciate whatever you can do.

Blessings!

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Return Service Requested

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

Current Services are online at crwpc.org. Office hours will vary.

Office Hours-May vary during COVID-19 restrictions.

Monday - Thursday

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Times-All Services online. Links at crwpc.org

9:00 a.m. FUEL service in the Family Life Center

11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary

Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or at www.crwpc.org

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