



The Voice of Westminster

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

March 2018

"Secret" Prayer

"But when thou prayest, enter into thy chamber: and when thou hast shut thy door, pray unto thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6 (Geneva Bible, 1599).

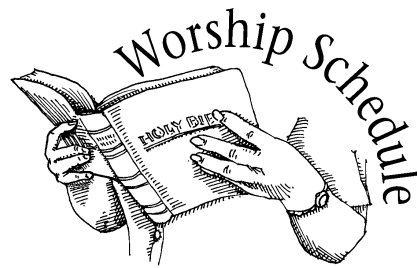
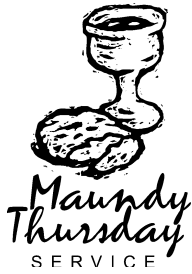
The Puritans, who were our fore-fathers and mothers in the faith, incorporated into their daily routines what they referred to as "secret", or personal, prayer. Their daily practice, however, was considerably more involved than what most of us would think of as daily prayer. The term included self-examination and confession, meditation, scripture reading, intercessory prayer, and various spiritual disciplines, like journaling, service to the poor, fasting, and reading theological books. All this effort was directed to cultivating the strong, abiding faith which would lead to an honest and earnest relationship with God.

All of us want to be in that kind of relationship with God, but it can seem overwhelming sometimes. How do you even get started developing spiritual habits like that? Well, like with any habit worth having, you pick a place and start. One of the easier places for me to get started was reading books about God and faith – I had a cup of coffee every morning, and so I started reading while I was drinking my coffee. Some days, it was only a page or two, but even a page or two was enough to get me thinking. And it was enough to make me hungry for more. It doesn't matter so much where you start, just that you take the next step.

Westminster is living in something of an "in-between" time right now. The visioning work we did together is done, but we must wait while the Pastor Nominating Committee does its work. And we can all be honest with each other, it's hard to be patient! But perhaps this is another place where we can each work on our "secret" prayer life. Find out what our confessions say about pastors and preachers; examine your own behavior for signs of impatience or wanting your own way; meditate on Scriptures that encourage us to wait on God's time; renew or begin service in one of our local ministries or missions. It doesn't matter where you start. Just take a step.

But whatever else you do, please pray - both in "secret" and when we gather. Pray for the members of the PNC, by name. Pray they will have the mind of Christ, and be willing to work through their disagreements to attain unity. Pray God will grant them wisdom. Pray for the next pastor, that God is filling them, even now, with a passion to preach the Word. Pray, as well, that they will have a sure sense of God's call to this church. And pray for the members of Westminster. Pray for patience and commitment to the common values we identified. Pray for an openness to God's will for our future, and for a sense of peace when a final selection is made.

Praising God always, in all ways!



Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter Services

Last month, we noted that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day were on the same day, an unusual occurrence last recorded in 1945. This month, Palm Sunday and Holy Week come at the end of March with Easter and April Fool's Day happening on the same day, April 1. If that seems early, it is. To keep you informed of special services for Holy Week, Westminster's schedule is below:

March 25—Palm Sunday, 9 & 11 a.m. in regular locations

March 29—Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m.—FLC

March 30—Good Friday, 6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary

April 1—Easter Sunday Services at 9 & 11 a.m. in regular locations and One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) collection. For more information on OGHS, visit www.pcusa.org/oghs.

From the PNC

"The PNC maintains our pace. Slow and steady wins the race."

We currently have a pool of 36 applicants we are reviewing. We have reached out to several prime candidates and are arranging interviews. This is a marathon and not a sprint. We appreciate your prayers and patience.

We will continue to maintain transparency and provide you with frequent updates. We thank you for your support as we continue our quest.

-Signe Henderson, Moderator

PNC Members: Jan Kosowski, Bob Moore, Prince Nabuyoli, Val Neubauer and Tom Read

Kids Sunday School for March

Coming off their "Month of Love" in February, Westminster Sunday School students will learn in March about Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Resurrection. Sunday School meets at 10:10 a.m. and will be in the Adult Sunday School Room upstairs.

March 4—Palm Sunday and the Last Supper
 March 11—Betrayal, Arrest and Trials
 March 18—Crucifixion and Burial
 March 25—Resurrection and Ascension



Let the little children
 come to me....

LUKE 18:16

Last month, Westminster children created valentine packets for the Ronald McDonald Room at St. Luke's, took hat and chapstick packets to Willis Dady Homeless Shelter and decorated cookies and made bookmarks for the members that attend the 11 a.m. service.

Adult Education for March

Adult Education classes continue in March. Class attendance for the Spring 2018 classes has been very good. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

March 4—College Student Spirituality—Melea White, Coe Chaplain

March 11, 18 & 25—Faith Development—Don Damsteegt, Adult Education Committee Chair
 This class will focus on faith as a verb or "faithing." How do people go about living their faith? This material is part of the study of the Psychology of Religion. A small book, *Faith is a Verb: Dynamics of Faith Development*, will be available for purchase.

Thank You For the Westminster Team Effort!

We all extend a big thank you to everyone who helped out when a leak in the roof was detected in and outside the Sunday School rooms on the second floor. Volunteers including Dave Cosgrove, Basil Tilley and Mark Tyler along with Custodian Gary Mohomes installed a tarp to catch water, set out and monitored numerous buckets for the drips and were up on the roof checking the snow and water situation. A temporary patch has been installed and we are awaiting estimates on other options. Thank you all!



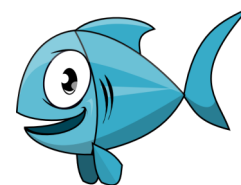
March at Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry is stocking up on the following items during the month of March:

- Spaghetti
- Canned tomatoes-diced/
sauce
- Toothbrush

All donations are appreciated!

The Bread People A Loaves & Fishes Tale



Every Tuesday morning Val and Loren Neubauer head over to Panera's. While I am sure there is coffee involved, their main purpose is to pick up boxes of bread and sweets and bring them down to Loaves & Fishes to be given out that afternoon. Likewise, every Tuesday afternoon Dale and Alice Crosier head out to HACAP in Hiawatha to load up a pallet of bread and sweets and truck them down to Loaves & Fishes. I tease Dale that I just love a man with a truck! Thank you faithful bread people!

-Jan Kosowski

Why Loaves & Fishes?

From time to time, you might wonder why our volunteers have such a passion for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry? Why do we constantly collect and give food? Pantry Coordinator Jan Kosowski reminds all of us that we take our lead from the Bible and it's a lesson worth remembering. Matthew 14:15-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

¹⁶Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ***So the members of Westminster and Christ Episcopal obeyed their Master and created a food pantry.***

¹⁷"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸"Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. ***Each week before the pantry opens the volunteers gather for prayer.*** Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Each week L & F clients can barely carry all the food they receive, and extra food is taken to Geneva Tower. ²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. ***Thousands of people are served by Loaves & Fishes every year.***

Jesus did not teach us to feed only those we think are deserving; he taught us to feed all who are in need.

Needles Click, Warmth Spreads...



Twice a month, the small parlor off the Sanctuary fills with sounds of chatter, the smell of coffee and the sounds of good friends coming together for a common cause. It's Westminster's Prayer Shawl Ministry. The group started in February 2004. To date, they have given away nearly 500 prayer shawls. Recipients have ranged from new parents to members who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

One of the most memorable special projects was their "Save the Penguins" project in 2014. Members knitted sweaters for penguins that had been affected by oil spills in Australia.

Linda Smith wrote about that amazing effort in her column, "From the Knitting Basket."

"All things bright and beautiful; all creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful; the Lord God made them." We learned the penguins in Australia were in need of hand knitted sweaters to wear. It sounded intriguing! Penguins are being covered in oil from oil spills in the ocean. They are poisoned and die from picking at the oil on their feathers. The sweaters provide a barrier to prevent them from ingesting the oil before workers are able to clean it off. A request went out over the internet that included a pattern for the sweater. We went right to work! And now, we are packing a box full of sweaters to mail off to Australia. Our group is excited to help protect God's creatures in our own small way. "A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal." Proverbs 12:10 (NIV)

-Linda Smith

Prayer Shawl Ministry To Be Recognized March 11

Westminster's Prayer Shawl Ministry will be blessed during services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on March 11. The group is considering new projects including blankets for the Ronald McDonald Room at St. Luke's. Please join us in honoring this ministry now in its 14th year.

Personal Prayer Shawl Memory

Some years ago now, my mother passed away. At the time I received a shawl from WPC's Shawl Ministry with a card with the name of the person who knit it for me. Though I didn't know that person, I tucked the card away with some other mementos and the shawl always hangs on the back of my chair by the window. I throw it over my shoulders to keep the cold away. About two years later I retired and got involved with our Loaves & Fishes food pantry (Val Neubauer roped me in!) It took awhile but I came to know all the volunteers, and the name of one of them tripped a memory of that little card I had tucked away. Sure enough it was made by one of our dearest volunteers at Loaves & Fishes, Sharon Dewey! I love Sharon Dewey. - *Jan Kosowski*

Editor's Note: Jan shared a photo of the prayer shawl which is in our e-mail Voice of Westminster.

Voice of Westminster

Offering Stewards

March 5—Barb & Bill Moss
 March 12—Pat Teig & Mark Tyler
 March 19—Maggie York & Ann Buckheister
 March 26—Warren Feerer & Tom Read

11:00 a.m. Ushers/Greeters

March 4—Claudia Warfel, John & Signe Henderson
 March 11—Dick Trotter & Barb Schultz
 March 18—Joan Charters, Jim & Cheryl Shanklin
 March 25—Jean Kenison & Claudia Warfel

9 a.m. Liturgists

March 4—Leslie Wright
 March 11—Butch Hataway
 March 18—Val Neubauer
 March 25—Loren Neubauer

11 a.m. Liturgists

March 4—Don Damsteegt
 March 11—Signe Henderson
 March 18—Barb Read
 March 25—Ann Buckheister



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Marjorie Daft	2
Glenn Lane	2
Deloris Meyer	2
John Ruth	2
James Shanklin	2
Darwin Busch	4
Ben Long	4
Justin Hataway	5
James Cummings	6
Ed Mumford	6
Julie Schlader	6
Mark Long	8
Linda Cosgrove	11
Dorothy Johnson	12
Leslie Wright	12
Ben Trickey	15
Will Evans	16
Jane Heck	17
Lindsay Meade	17
Sherlene Van Fossen	17
Bill Moss	23
Harrison Shaffer	26
Abbie Smith	26
Katharine Cummings	27

Blood Pressure Screenings

The next free blood pressure screening will be Sunday, March 4. There will be a table set up outside the office area between the 9 and 11 a.m. services. We'll see you soon!



Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Mar 2018 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
				1pm - Pastor Randi 5:30pm - Personnel	Church Closed	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion Sunday 8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 10:10am - Sunday 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest	1pm - Pastor Randi	3pm - L & F Pantry @ 6pm - Deacons Meeting	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 11am - PEO LU Chapter 5:30pm - Coe Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	9:15am - Kindred 1pm - Pastor Randi	Church Closed	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 10:10am - Sunday 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest	12pm - Prayer Class 12:30pm - Property 1pm - Pastor Randi	3pm - L & F Pantry @	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 9:30am - Shawl 5:30pm - Coe Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	1pm - Pastor Randi	Church Closed Newsletter Deadline!	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 10:10am - Sunday 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest	1pm - Pastor Randi 4:30pm - Finance	3pm - L & F Pantry @ 6:30pm - Session	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 5:30pm - Coe Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	9:15am - Kindred 1pm - Pastor Randi	Church Closed	8am - Metro Mix
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am - Breakfast @ 9am - FUEL Worship 10am - Adult Christian 10:10am - Sunday 11am - Traditional 4pm - Chorale Midwest	12pm - Prayer Class 1pm - Pastor Randi	3pm - L & F Pantry @	7:30am - Men's Brkfst 1pm - Shawl Ministry @ 5:30pm - Coe Bible 7pm - Chancel Choir	1pm - Pastor Randi 6:30pm - Maundy	Church Closed 6:30pm - Good Friday	

Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Times

9:00 a.m. Blended service in the Family Life Center
11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary

Visit us on Facebook or at www.crwpc.org

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