

THE ABBEY NEWS



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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APRIL 2022

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POINTS TO PONDER

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb." John 20:1

While it was still dark, and the world slept in silence, Mary Magdalene made her way to the tomb. She wasn't going prepared to be the first apostle—one who shared the good news of the Resurrection. She went to anoint Jesus' body and prepare it for burial. Because of the timing of his death, his body was hastily thrown into a tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea.

Whenever I have an occasion or responsibility to be up before sunrise, I joke that I am up before God is even awake. This isn't true, of course, and I don't really believe that God is sleeping. But in those pre-dawn hours, there is a hushedness that falls over the world. Every creature and every thing seems to be sleeping. It is in this stillness that Mary made her way to the tomb. It is in this silence that the world-reversing Resurrection occurs. Frederick Buechner states it more beautifully, saying:

It has always struck me as remarkable that when the writers of the four Gospels come to the most important part of the story they have to tell, they tell it in whispers. The part I mean, of course, is the part about the resurrection. The Jesus who was dead is not dead anymore. He has risen. He is here. According to the Gospels there was no choir of angels to proclaim it. There was no sudden explosion of light in the sky. Not a single soul was around to see it happen. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb afterward, she thought at first that it must be a gardener standing there in the shadows, and when she saw who it really was and tried to embrace him, he told her not to, as if for fear that once she had him in her arms she would never let him go, the way I suspect that if you and I were ever to have him in our arms, we would never let him go either.

Jesus' Resurrection is quite different from his birth. Unlike the beloved hymn we sing, that night was not a silent night. Angels proclaimed the good news, animals bore witness to the birth. But the Resurrection is different.

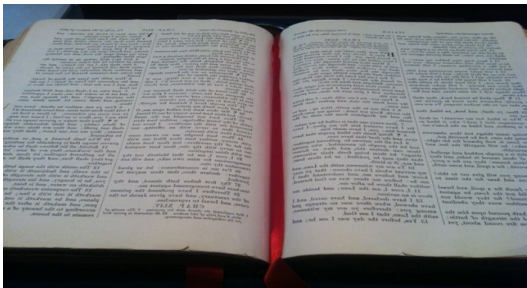
How might our journey to Easter look different if we dwell in the silence of the pre-dawn hours? I hope that as we draw closer to the cross, and even closer to the Resurrection, that you find moments of quietness to whisper the truth of God's amazing love: that while we still were sinners, God died for us, so that we might have life everlasting.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Audrey



We are so blessed to have a loving and caring church family here at WPC! If you would like to be a part of this family, we would LOVE to have you! You are only a visitor once at WPC! There are so many offerings of service through our church. There is one for YOU!



APRIL SERMONS

April 3: "The Only Definitive Word"
Luke 15:11-32

April 10: "Do You Hear the People Sing?"
Zechariah 9:9 and Mark 11:1-11

April 17: "A Tale of Three Gardens"
Genesis 2:15, Luke 22:39-46, and John 20:1-19

April 24: Guest Preacher

We will
Celebrate Holy
Communion
April 17th
during Morning
Worship.



Lent



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 14th—Seneca Presbyterian 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 15th—Westminster Presbyterian 7:30 pm Service of Shadows



Join us Easter Sunday Morning for our Sunrise Service on the front lawn of the church at 7 am. Bring some flowers and help us create our beautiful Living Cross! We will have breakfast in Gossett immediately following the service. We will have an Easter Egg hunt for our children in the community at 10 am. We will meet for worship and Holy Communion at 11 am in the sanctuary. Please mark your calendar today and don't miss this special time in the life of our church!



TREASURER’S REPORT

Receipts: \$ 17,310.92
expenses 12,115.13
+ 5,195.79
YTD receipts: \$ 28,115.83
expenses 24,104.33
+ 4011.50

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



We will be collecting donations for our One Great Hour of Sharing mission project during the season of Lent. Please pick up a “Gracie” fish piggy bank for your loose change! Your donations may also be made by making checks payable to WPC and memo OGH on your check. Session voted to designate our funds to the Disaster Relief effort of the drive this year. Also, our church keeps 40% of all funds collected. Session also voted to give these funds in support of our Dream Team Work Project. This is such an exciting time in the life of our church. Thank you for your extraordinary generosity in supporting and giving to all of our mission projects.

“He hath shown thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Micah 6:8

Please reach out to your Session with any concerns or needs.
Clerk: Brad Stancil
Stewardship/Finance: Kim Burden
Mission/Outreach: Nita McMillan
Worship: Virginia Gordon
Christian Education: Lou Haynes
Property: John Merritt
Congregational Care: John Johnston

April Flowers

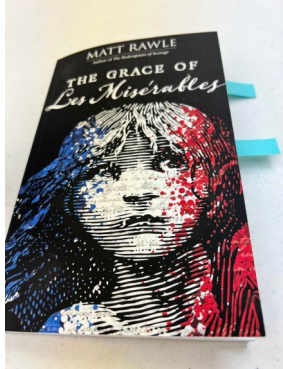


If you would like to place flowers in the church sanctuary, please contact Shepherd Chuites. God bless you! During the season of Lent, no flowers will be in the sanctuary.



LENTEN SOUP AND STUDY BEGINS!

What a great kick off to our Lenten Soup and Study! If you missed this week, you’re welcome next week! We will meet in Gossett Hall each Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Rev. Audrey will provide a light meal. Hope to see you there!



OUR FAITHFUL DOT’S KITCHEN CREW!

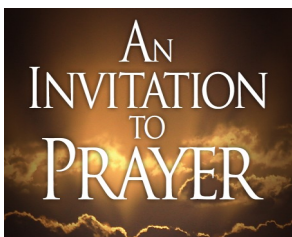


God bless you all for your tireless service in fulfilling Dot's mission:

“Until they are all fed...”

JOIN US FOR YOGA!
EACH MONDAY, 6:30 PM IN GOSSETT HALL

Lent



Town Prayer Meeting
Join us for prayer every Tuesday

morning at 9 am at the gazebo in downtown Westminster. There will be a guest minister each week.



Kathy Darnell, Robbie McClure (Marie Dunnam's brother) Elizabeth Christensen (Kathy Skillen's niece), Arthur Skillen (Kathy Skillen's brother), Joanne Mason, Bob Hartness (Rev. Audrey's dad), Clifton Mabry, Kathy Skillen and Sam and Edna Dillard.

Dates to Remember!

- 4/6 Dot's Kitchen
- 4/12 Dot's Kitchen
- 4/17 Holy Communion
- 4/14 Maundy Thursday SPC 7 pm
- 4/15 Good Friday WPC 7:30 pm



Sharing God's Love

Are you looking for opportunities to share the love of Christ in our community? See Linda White or Joey Roeder for Dot's and Oconee United Ministries.



Presbyterian Women Afternoon Circle



Ladies, we would LOVE to have you at Circle! We meet each month at 4:30 pm in Gossett Hall. Many thanks to those who provided delicious goodies for our March meeting, and for a wonderful discussion of our Ephesians study led by Rev. Audrey.

We will meet Monday, April 4th for our annual Passover/Seder Meal and Holy Communion. This service is always so very special and meaningful. Rev. Audrey will be our leader as we follow our Savior's journey to the cross. Don't miss this opportunity to draw closer to our Savior through fellowship and worship.



Happy Birthday for the month of April!

- 3 Bradley Moore
- 19 Edna Dillard
- 23 John Johnston, Brad Stancil
- 25 Leslie McCall
- 29 Sandy Brockington

