

THE ABBEY NEWS



APRIL 2023

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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FROM THE PASTOR

"The Beginner's Mind"

"People brought babies to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. When the disciples saw it, they shooed them off. Jesus called them back. 'Let these children alone. Don't get between them and me. These children are the kingdom's pride and joy. Mark this: Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in.'" ~Luke 18:15-17. The Message

After Easter, we are going to spend a few weeks exploring a concept that Father Richard Rohr calls "The Beginner's Mind." Jesus loved children, and we are going to look at several passages where Jesus calls the children to him. One of my favorite scenes in the television series *The Chosen* is Jesus playing with kids. The actor portrays perfectly how I envision Jesus's face whenever children or babies were around.

The beginner's mind concept calls us to enter into a space of unknowing—to forget all of the hard lessons we believe life has taught us—and to embrace an urgent need to remain open, forever a student. This concept is not new, and not original to Father Richard. He draws on an ancient text, *The Cloud of Unknowing* (author unknown), from the 14th century to deepen our understanding of what truly "coming into the kingdom as a child" looks like. He writes:

The author of *The Cloud of Unknowing* is always saying you've got to balance your knowing with a willingness not to know. The mind of itself, the brain in itself, is incapable of wisdom. It's only at an experiential level of existence that we *know* something, but that knowing is not subject to telling. I think that's why we don't like it. It gives us no ego rewards. We can't prove it. We can't measure it. We can't convince anyone else that we're right.

What the author says is that first we have to enter the Cloud of Forgetting—to forget all our certitudes, all our labels, all our explanations, just forget them! They are all a waste of time. They are nothing but our ego projecting itself and announcing itself. It has nothing to do with objective reality.

Here's the bottom line: Those children who came or were brought to Jesus knew nothing of the cynicism and skepticism of the world. Their parents who brought them threw out what they knew from life experience and relied on faith. The disciples, those who did the "shooing" according to Eugene Peterson's translation, were allowing the world of "knowing" to block their beginner's mind.

Where do you fall on this spectrum? I think, for most of us, we swing back and forth. But as we explore this idea after Easter, in light of the Resurrection, I encourage you to consider what it might be like to approach your faith, and indeed the Christian life, with a beginner's mind.

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!



We will Celebrate Holy Communion on Easter Sunday, April 9th



APRIL SERMONS

April 2: Cantata *I am the Lord of the Dance*
April 9: (Easter): Deuteronomy 33:1-4 and Luke 13:18-21 "The Kingdom of God" (Sunrise: John 19:1-20)

April 16: Joshua 14:6-13 and Luke 18:15-17 "The Beginner's Mind"

April 23: Matthew 19:13-14 and Acts 16:1-3: "Humble Enough to Learn"

April 30: Mark 10:13-16: "Do Not Be Stopped"



“Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).





Feb. receipts:	\$ 12,052.68
expenses	14,641.65
	- 2588.97
YTD receipts:	\$ 28,734.48
expenses	26,389.38
	+ 2345.10



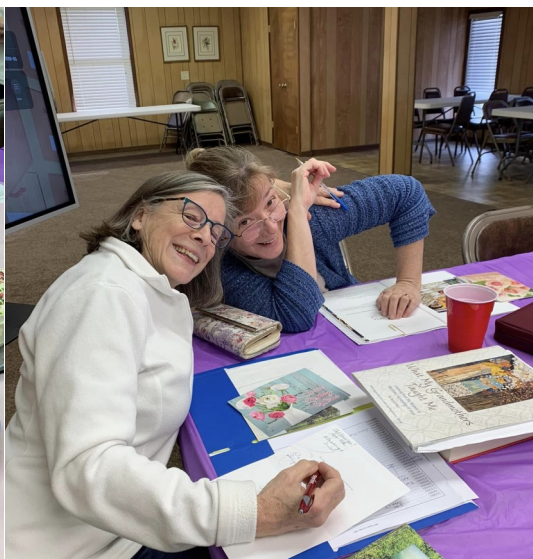
Remember to feed your One Great Hour fish everyday with your loose change!!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We were blessed with another wonderful afternoon of sister fellowship, awesome Bible study and tasty treats at our March Circle meeting! HAPPY BIRTHDAY REV. AUDREY!! Thank you to Rev. Audrey for our Bible study on Mary. Thanks to all the ladies for the delicious meal. If you haven't joined circle, give it a try! You will be blessed!

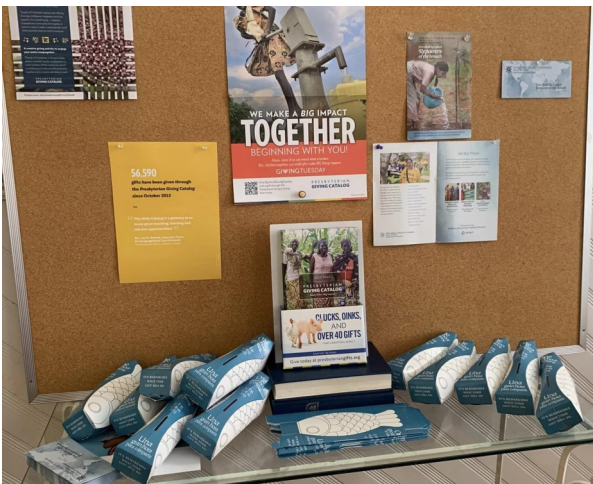
Our next meeting will be **April 3rd at 4:30 pm** in Gossett Hall. We will be having our “Last Supper” Meal. This is a most special service of depicting the meal Jesus would have shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. RSVP to Trish McCoy so that she can have a head count. Don’t miss this blessing! Hope to see you there!



We LOVE our
church family!
If you are
looking for a
church home,
come join us! We welcome
you and love you!

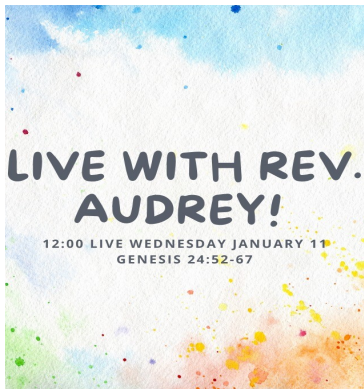


Season of Lent

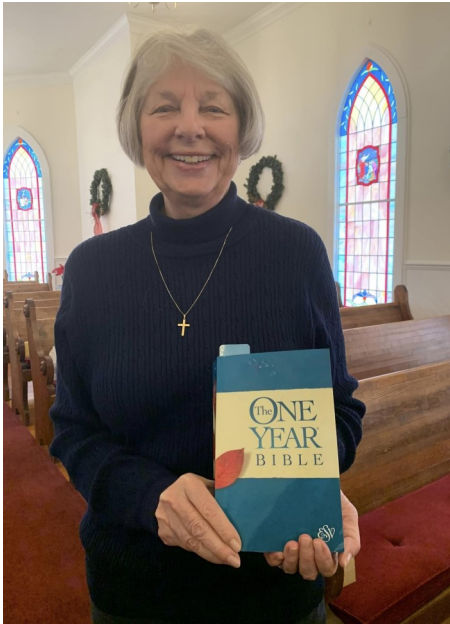


Weekly Devotionals via FB Live

Bible in a Year



Rev. Audrey will be offering a noon devotional once a week to introduce some of the topics she will cover in her sermons each week! This is a great time to get together and discuss topics on line and/or just hear a bit of encouragement to get you through the week!



We pray that you all are enjoying our Bible in a Year study! We have heard many positive comments as to how our study is uniting us in daily prayer and devotion and it is getting us all into God's Word each and every day! Keep reading, praying, learning and living into those beautiful words!

Scenes from Lenten Season Worship





Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Cantata 11 am during worship. (April 2nd)

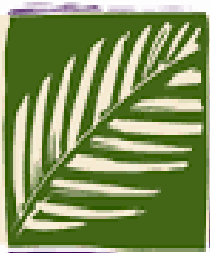
Maundy Thursday service will be held at Seneca Presbyterian at 7 pm, (April 6th)

Good Friday service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian at 7 pm. (April 7th)

One Great HOUR

OF SHARING

Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Project. We will be collecting funds during the Lenten Season. We will collect our “fish” on Easter Sunday!



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. This was started by one person who felt the need for prayer in our town. It has grown and continues to be a light in our community!



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, Sam and Edna Dillard, Paula Meades and Shari Waldo’s friend, Jim, Al and Annie Belauskus, Sherry Moates, Erin Wood (Wendy Linhart’s daughter)

Please continue to pray for Peace in our world and protection for all that are oppressed and in harms way.

Pray for our police, firemen and first responders, doctors and nurses as they put themselves in harms way to help us.

Easter Baskets for Lakeview



Our PW Circle had the pleasure of creating some Easter baskets for our friends at Lakeview Assisted Living! It is such a privilege to bless others and share the Love of Christ in our community!



Westminster Hope ComeUnity!



Our Westminster Hope ComeUnity continues to grow and sail on with the power of the Holy Spirit! We are so grateful for all of your prayers and continued support for this most worthy mission project. We have met with City Council twice now as a presentation and as a discussion item on their agenda. We are hopeful for good news ahead. Anything and EVERYTHING is possible with our awesome GOD!



Dates to Remember!

- 4/5 Dot’s Kitchen
- 4/11 Dot’s Kitchen
- 4/12 Session Reports Due
- 4/16 Session Meeting
- 4/3 Presbyterian Women 4:30pm
- 4/6 Maundy Thursday Seneca 7pm
- 4/7 Good Friday Service WPC 7pm
- 4/9 Easter Sunrise 7, 11 am

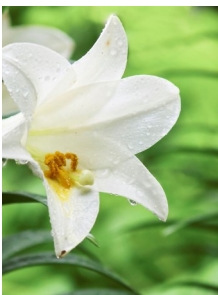


Happy Birthday for the month of April

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



**Early birthdays May: 5 Trish McCoy, 9 Henry Gordon

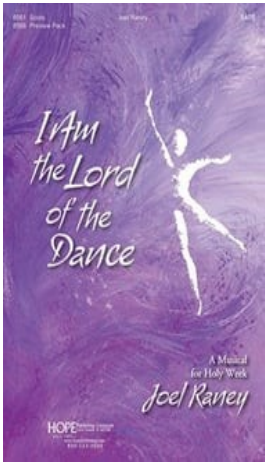


April Flowers

Contact Shepherd Chuites if you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary

CHOIR NOTES

Our cantata will be performed for our congregation on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. Don’t miss this most special service! Narration will be done by Pat Roeder.



Session met for its regularly stated meeting on March 5th after worship. We have an amazing group of servant leaders who have a strong desire to discern God’s will for their own lives, and for the life of Westminster Presbyterian Church! Each elder brings a unique perspective to the table. March’s meeting focused on the fantastic improvement to our buildings and grounds, reminders from the Mission and Outreach committee about One Great Hour, and updates on Westminster Hope ComeUnity, which is in the process of presenting a proposal to the city of Westminster to purchase property on Riley Street.

BIBLE IN A YEAR SCRIPTURES

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
1	Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20	Luke 9:28-50	73:1-28	12:10
2	Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30	Luke 9:51-10:12	74:1-23	12:11
3	Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19	Luke 10:13-37	75:1-10	12:12-14
4	Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26	Luke 10:38-11:13	76:1-12	12:15-17
5	Deuteronomy 28:1-68	Luke 11:14-36	77:1-20	12:18
6	Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20	Luke 11:37-12:7	78:1-31	12:19-20
7	Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27	Luke 12:8-34	78:32-55	12:21-23
8	Deuteronomy 32:28-52	Luke 12:35-59	78:56-64	12:24
9	Deuteronomy 33:1-29	Luke 13:1-21	78:65-72	12:25
10	Deuteronomy 34:1- Joshua 2:24	Luke 13:22-14:6	79:1-13	12:26
11	Joshua 3:1-4:24	Luke 14:7-35	80:1-19	12:27-28
12	Joshua 5:1-7:15	Luke 15:1-32	81:1-16	13:01
13	Joshua 7:16-9:2	Luke 16:1-18	82:1-8	13:2-3
14	Joshua 9:3-10:43	Luke 16:19-17:10	83:1-18	13:04
15	Joshua 11:1-12:24	Luke 17:11-37	84:1-12	13:5-6
16	Joshua 13:1-14:15	Luke 18:1-17	85:1-13	13:7-8
17	Joshua 15:1-63	Luke 18:43	86:1-17	13:9-10
18	Joshua 16:1-18:28	Luke 19:1-27	87:1-7	13:11
19	Joshua 19:1-20:9	Luke 19:28-48	88:1-18	13:12-14
20	Joshua 21:1-22:20	Luke 20:1-26	89:1-13	13:15-16
21	Joshua 22:21-23:16	Luke 20:27-47	89:14-37	13:17-19
22	Joshua 24:1-33	Luke 21:1-28	89:38-52	13:20-23
23	Judges 1:1-2:9	Luke 21:29-22:13	90:1-91:16	13:24-25
24	Judges 2:10-3:31	Luke 22:14-34	92:1-93:5	14:1-2
25	Judges 4:1-5:31	Luke 22:35-53	94:1-23	14:3-4
26	Judges 6:1-40	Luke 22:54-23:12	95:1-96:13	14:5-6
27	Judges 7:1-8:17	Luke 23:13-43	97:1-98:9	14:7-8
28	Judges 8:18-9:21	Luke 23:44-24:12	99:1-9	14:9-10
29	Judges 9:22-10:18	Luke 24:13-53	100:1-5	14:11-12
30	Judges 11:1-12:15	John 1:1-28	101:1-8	14:13-14