

The Westminster Presbyterian Church

Communicant

March 2018



As Holy Week Approaches...

*F*riends,

This month we're continuing our journey through Lent, as we prepare for Easter Sunday on April 1. I hope this season has been one that has drawn you into deep prayer and intentional reflection.

I once had a mentor who suggested I read an entire gospel in one sitting. His rationale was that we spend a lot of time studying groups of verses and individual stories, which is definitely important, but sometimes we get caught up in details and miss the big picture. As I've read through Mark during Lent, I've tried to reflect on Jesus' ministry through the big picture lens of the cross and the empty grave.

In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes,

"In Jesus Christ alone, God's wrath is stilled, and we are overcome in the will of God. Therefore, the cross of Jesus Christ is for his church the eternal ground of joy and hope of the coming glory of God. Here in the cross God's justice and victory have broken out on earth...The peace that we receive here will become an eternal glorious peace in the Kingdom of God."



As Holy Week approaches at the end of this month, I'd invite us to reflect on Jesus' life and ministry through the words in Mark 16:6. Three women show up to Jesus' grave and are told, "He has been raised; he is not here." Joy and fear. Hope and doubt. Some understanding, and a good amount of confusion. There's tension in the resurrection. And yet, as Bonhoeffer writes, there is also peace. May we find peace in the tension as we journey together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Dave



Holy Week and Easter Services and Events

PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION, SUNDAY, MARCH 25

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| 10:00 am | One Worship Service, Confirmation Class received by the congregation |
| 11:15 am | All-Church Brunch to celebrate our confirmands; Lenten activities for children |

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29

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| 6:00 pm | All-Church Dinner |
| 7:30 pm | Maundy Thursday worship service; with chancel choir, communion served |

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30

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| Noon – 7 pm | Good Friday Journey through the Stations of the Cross – Prayer Garden |
| 7:30 pm | Good Friday worship service in the Sanctuary with praise team |

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

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|----------|---|
| 6:00 am | Community Easter Sunrise service at Pierce Brothers |
| 8:00 am | WPC service—traditional—followed by egg hunt |
| 9:30 am | WPC service—traditional—followed by egg hunt |
| 11:15 am | WPC service—contemporary—followed by egg hunt |

Adult Christian Formation

Mornings

Coffee Conversations on Sundays

Join us on **March 4 and March 11**. As Pastor Dave continues his Lenten season sermon series, many of us may find ourselves wanting to delve deeper into the scriptural texts and the devotional by N. T. Wright, *Lent for Everyone: Mark, Year B*.

Grab a cup of coffee on the Courtyard after worship, enjoy some fellowship with friends, then head to the WPC Library at 11:00 am for a follow-up discussion during which we can explore the texts and Pastor Dave's exposition of them. Classes will be led by members of the Adult Christian Formation committee.

Then, on **March 18**, in the Fellowship Hall, but still at 11:00 am, the class will be led by Pieter DeVries. He will help us explore the topic of "The Stations of the Cross". This will be an excellent introduction to Good Friday when the Stations can be used to guide us in our personal mediations and during our Good Friday Journey (March 30, noon to 7 pm, WPC Prayer Garden).

You are invited!

Evenings

Evolution and Faith: Must We Choose?

A Four-Part Class on Science and the Christian Faith

Few topics have generated as much confusion and controversy as the issue of evolution, creationism, and the origin and diversification of life on Earth. Where is the line between science and faith? What is taught in our public schools, and why? What is the role of the church in this discussion?

The Adult Christian Formation Committee is pleased to invite you to a timely series of discussions on science, particularly evolutionary biology, and how it interacts with the Christian faith. Our speaker is WPC's Dr. Jody Martin, an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Associate Vice President for Research at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Classes will continue on the Sunday evenings of March 4, March 11, and March 18, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Center. Come, even if you missed the first class in February. All ages are welcome, but the class material will be presented at a high school to adult level. The class is free and open to the public, so bring a friend and/or neighbor. A donation of any amount is greatly appreciated (SYF students exempted!). Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Come join in the discussion!



Plan on These Dates

Sunday Worship Services

- 9:30 Traditional Service
- 11:15 Contemporary Service

For Children on Sundays

- 9:30 & 11:15 am
Children age 3 through 8th grade begin in worship with their families and are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Message.
- Childcare is available for children from birth to 3 years from 9:30 to 12:30 each Sunday morning.

Adult Christian Formation

Coffee Conversations
Sundays, 11:00 am, Fellowship Center

Weekly Bible Studies:

- ❖ **Monday Bible Study**, Mondays, 1 pm, WPC Library, contact Aubrey Grey
- ❖ **Wednesday Study**, 2:30 pm, WPC Library, contact Jim Mulick
- ❖ **Women on Wednesday**, Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Library, contact Sue Minihan

Student Ministries

Junior High Ministry, Grades 6-8

Contact Matt Pardee
Matt@wpcwestlake.org
JYF (Middle School Youth Group), Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 pm, Youth Center
Girls4God, (Jr. High girls), Sundays, 4:30 pm, Youth Lounge. Contact Lisa Rush:
Lisarush3@gmail.com

Senior High Ministry, Grades 9-12

Contact John (JR) Robertson
JR@wpcwestlake.org
SYF (High School Youth Group): Sundays, 6:00 pm, Youth Center
CNA (Christians Non-Anonymous Midweek Bible Study) Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, off site

Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Everyone is invited!

Weekly Wednesday Koffee Klatch

For adults 50+, Oakside Room, 9:30 am, conversation & sermon text preview

Weekly Community Outreach

- ❖ WPC Winter Shelter, Wednesdays in the Community Outreach Center: overnight shelter (December–March), year-round dinner, showers, health care
- ❖ Westminster Free Clinic: Wednesdays, 5-10 pm, United Methodist Church, TO, contact Cindy Vinson

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, March 4, 10:30 am

Bookworms

March 8, 2 pm

Adult Christian Formation

Sundays, 11 am, Fellowship Center
Coffee Conversations

Kids Fellowship Club

Learning Through Lent
continuing on Tuesdays through March 27

Evolution and Faith: Must We Choose?

Sundays, 7 pm, continuing March 4, 11, 18

SYF Parent Meeting

Mission Trip Introduction/ Planning
March 11, 4:30pm, Youth Center

Taco Tuesday

March 13, 5:30 pm, call C&FM for more info

Pathfinders

March 17, Saturday, 9 to 10:30 am,
WPC Library

Meeting of the Session

Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm

Palm Sunday Celebration

March 25, one service, 10 am
All-Church Brunch following worship

One Great Hour of Sharing

March 25, Palm Sunday, offering received

Maundy Thursday All-Church Dinner

March 29, 6 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

March 29, 7:30 pm

Good Friday Meditation Time

March 30, 12 noon – 7:30 pm
WPC Prayer Garden

Good Friday Service

March 30, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday

April 1, Worship Services at 8, 9:30, 11:15 am
Egg hunt following each service

Communion

March 4, March 29, April 8

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 10:30 AM



ome to the Sanctuary between services on March 4 for the annual meeting of the congregation. 2017 was a year of transitions; we will look back over that year and approve a budget and plans for 2018. Everyone is invited.

Crop Walk 2018 – Sunday, March 4

We can't make this any easier for you!

Please follow this link:
<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/thousandoaksca/westminsterpresbyterianchurch>
 to donate to the Conejo Valley Crop Walk. The walk will be held Sunday, March 4 at CLU. We encourage you to get out and walk or simply share this link with your friends and family and ask for their support.

Cinco de Mayo Manna Event

Mark your calendars, please, for the upcoming *Cinco de Mayo* feast for Manna. We'll meet at Manna's new location on Saturday, May 5 to tour the premises and see exactly what the new vision is for Manna.

Yes! This event is our fundraiser for the year so bring your checkbook and bring a friend! Anyone who wants to assist in the set up for the event please contact Sheryl Brownfield or Carol Spiegel.

One Great Hour of Sharing

On Palm Sunday, March 25, we will receive the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing offering. 100% of this offering is sent to Presbyterian Mission Agency with the following breakdown:

36%	Presbyterian Hunger Program
32%	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
32%	Self-Development of People

Special offering envelopes will be in the pew racks. Thank you for your generosity.

Senior Youth Fellowship: Mission Work Trip

Every summer our senior high students go on a one-week mission trip to serve others in the name of Jesus. This year we will be going to Houston, Texas to partner with City Service Mission (CSM) to serve the homeless population in the inner city. We were there in 2013 for a trip that many of the students still talk about today. It had a significant impact on their spiritual maturity.

Parent Meeting

There will be a parent meeting on March 11 at 4:30 in the Youth Center. At that time, you can ask any questions you might have about mission trips in general or Houston specifically. It will also be the first time to register your child for the trip that will be handled on a first come first serve basis. This trip is open to incoming 9th grades through 12th grade.

Blessings, J.R.





JYF Heads to Winter Camp

Library Lines

Slowly but certainly we've been moving the collection around until it fits and makes more sense for finding what someone might need. The small bookcase to the left of the window now has all non-fiction titles that are not in the 200 category (religion.) Here you will find a select few books about psychology, science, biography, and the like. The art and music titles are still on the big south wall. On the top level we placed most of our fiction too. This still remains our "family wall." Resources fill the rest. So, for pleasure and the little ones, enjoy the south wall. For study and discussion search the west and north walls. Stop in anytime and borrow for a week or two to enhance your own walk of faith. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

WPC Fix-It Crew

Getting the WPC Fix-It Crew back together!

We have the brawn but we need the brains. Your brains! We are looking for a Fix-It Crew Leader Team to organize projects, pick up supplies and schedule and host the Fix-It Crew once a month. If you enjoy DIY projects and paintbrush fellowship contact our Property Committee Elder, Bill Amador, at 805.558-4330.

Pathfinders

We now begin a trio of tradition studies, starting with the past, then going to the present, and finally the future as seen in the community with a focus upon Hebrews. We'll use a story of Moses, the Nicene Creed, and our Brief Statement of Faith to support our discussion, which will be full and hopefully fruitful. Take time to think about what is most important to your faith tradition from those you remember well and loved. Come and share as we meet Saturday morning, March 17, from 9 to 10:30 in the church library. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.



Kids Fellowship Hosts Fat Tuesday

Women on Wednesday: Women's Bible Study

Ladies and Friends, think about joining us for the Women on Wednesday Bible Study.

We meet every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm in the WPC Library for reflection and fellowship. At the moment, we are reviewing the Book of Isaiah with its many prophecies.

We hope to see you soon! Contact Sue Minihan, 805.373-1432.

◀ Fat Tuesday servers enjoy a few pancakes!

41 hours?

Every year we encourage our youth, both middle and high school students, to spend a weekend at Winter Camp. It begins with dinner on Friday evening and ends with packing a sack lunch to take home on Sunday morning, a total of 41 hours there at Forest Home, in Forest Falls. It takes 4–6 hours



to get there on a Friday evening, and about 2.5 hours to get home on Sunday afternoon. Some years we are lucky and there's snow. JYF was there in late January, SYF mid February.

You get

to sleep in a bunk bed in a sleeping bag (actually you lie there quite a bit as the noise is, well, sleep prohibitive at times). You might get some hot water in a shower. There's typically 250–300 middle school or high school kids once camp starts, all cramped in a dining hall with, well, camp food, four gatherings of everyone in another hall during the time you are there with a number of wild games – and even wilder/louder responses – singing with great bands and a speaker.

After each gathering you retire to your cabin to debrief, or high schoolers spend an hour after Saturday morning's gathering in "solo time" reflecting, reading and praying. Saturday afternoon is spent on zip lines, a challenge course, a swing for three that scares the bejeebers out of you, a hike, lasertag, and a myriad of other activities. Then there's the Adventure Mountain Sundae – 24 scoops – to be shared.

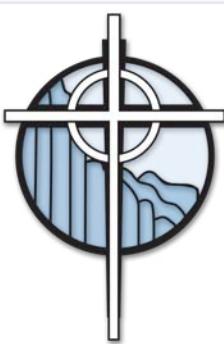
Doesn't sound like you'd be interested? Well, at one point in middle school Winter Camp the speaker threw open the floor saying she wanted campers to stand, one at a time, and finish the sentence "God is" Then she sat down. A pause... 20, 30, 45 seconds of awkward silence, then a boy stood and said "God is Love", another, then another stood and made their statements. It went on for 10 minutes. When it wound down, she rose and said "I want you to know just one thing: THAT was worship!"

One Sunday morning in High School Winter Camp the speaker threw open the floor asking students to come forward and say where they were in their

faithwalk, why they had stood when he had asked those who felt hopeless to stand, or what they had learned. Again, an awkward pause, then one came up, and then another, until the line was long. What they shared about where they are in their faith, what they had learned and what issues they face was, well, inspiring and eye-opening. The speaker told them repeatedly that God loves them and that their walk with God is important because (and he went to a back room and brought out his two boys, 2 years old and 6 months old) THEY would be the ones to tell his boys about the Lord's love for them.

41 hours can change lives. Think what we could do if we gave them just a couple hours of time weekly! Consider joining us, JYF on Tuesday evenings, SYF on Sunday evenings, Winter Camp next year, or this summer for Summer Camp with Middle School. You might be surprised at your reaction.

Student Ministries



The *Communicant*

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS
OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2018

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Kathy@wpcwestlake.org
To submit late photos call Kathy Dahms.