



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

## April, 2024 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

Following the solemn weeks of Lent, “Laughter Sunday” was an ancient tradition celebrated the week after Easter. In 1977 “The Fellowship of Merry Christians” was begun. Their newsletters shared cartoons including by Bill Keane (Family Circus) and other ways for churches to celebrate “Holy Humor Sunday.” Proverbs 17:22 – “A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.” There are 287 biblical references to joy, gladness, merriment, rejoicing delighting, and laughing. Elton Trueblood wrote *The Humor of Christ* in 1964, but we rarely picture Jesus as laughing.

That laugh of Sarah’s was not her last laugh in Genesis 18. She *did* conceive and she named her child Isaac, which means, “laughter.” Matt Laney asks us to imagine every time Abraham and Sarah called him in for dinner, they called, “Laughter!” Every time they scolded him, they said “Laughter, stop that!” Every time they tucked him in at night they said, “Good night, Laughter.”

On April 7<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate “Holy Humor Sunday” and include Communion, “The Joyful Feast of the People of God.”

I have appreciated several of you taking time to have a conversation with me before or after worship, as we get better acquainted, and as we share a laugh together. I look forward to getting to know each of you. If you have requests for me to consider for a topic or a Scripture for a sermon, email me at [highpocketsjtc@yahoo.com](mailto:highpocketsjtc@yahoo.com), or let me know after worship.

Meanwhile, I would suggest you bring your favorite joke to worship with you on April 7<sup>th</sup>. May the joy of the risen Christ on Easter bring a smile to your lips, joy to your life and the sound of laughter in your home.

In the joy of the risen Christ, *Jon Carlisle, Gap Pastor*

## FROM THE FOOTSTOOL

**THE HOUSEKEEPERS** By Alex Hay Fiction 2023 British to the Core

If you are a fan of the *Upstairs/Downstairs* tv shows and similar movies you will want to read this book. Take an armchair journey to England in the early 1900s and become involved with the staff (present and former) to a snobby aristocrat. A heist of the grand estate is planned while a costume ball is underway. Former female housemaids are the conniving schemers. It is such a complicated venture; it seems totally unlikely to be possible. Sympathies are attached to characters early on, and as the plot progresses, unease for them develops. The idea brings the film *Ocean's 11* to mind—where the viewer is rooting for the villains. Is this heist really criminal???? Could it succeed????? Who can win???? Or is this tale just a figment of one's imagination and an April Fool prank on us all. Tea and crumpets make a good accompaniment to this unique story.

## **AMITY**

**Stories From The Heartland** by J. Brent Bill Fiction Short Stories

### **AN ASIDE (WHAT??? HERE???)**

People often ask where I get the ideas or specific titles of the books reviewed. While there is a regular list of sources, this book did not fit into any of them. It appeared with a brief feature of the author in the Columbus West High Alumni Newsletter. Yes!! Mr. Bill is a West High Cowboy and he includes names of streets, businesses, and locations around the Hilltop throughout his stories. While some may not exist as such now, it is fun to read the names. So---West High, and the Hilltop made this a necessary read!!

Amity is a small book and a quick read. Each story is a few pages long and reads quickly—that is unless you want to go back and re-read some for personal pleasure. Stories reflect times past—from the late 1930s through the 1960s. Styles of living, thinking—even behaviors are well presented and carry the reader on waves of nostalgia to personal reflections. People are central for each story—parents, families, neighbors—and each story is about a moment or experience in daily living. “Goodness” is a constant theme, and such a comforting one. This would be a wonderful gift, especially for someone who lived on the west side many years ago. It is a “keeper” for me!!!

~ Carolyn Moore

## **2024 Flea Fantasia**

You can start bringing in items April 1 for the 2024 Flea Fantasia. Please put your donations in Room 3 and feel free to leave the clothes you donate on hangers so they can be hung directly on the clothes racks. It will take time to get all the stuff displayed and we need your help. Starting in May, at your convenience, please stop over at the Church and grab a box to unload in the Fellowship Hall or a bag of clothes to hang up in the Clothes Room.

The actual sale is May 17 through 19 and Westminster will be open from 9am to 3pm on Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday. If you would like to act as a host to the customers, just show up to help. We'll be accepting free will donations, so we don't have to have cashiers or make change. Some specialty items will be sold through social media and resale stores.

We met our 2023 goal to pack up and remove most of the remaining items from the building right after the event. We were able to accomplish this by coordinating the VOA's pick-up of the items with the Lutheran Church across the street. If you can help pack up the remaining items, please be at the Church at 12:30pm on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

After an absence of several years, we are going to offer food again. Westminster has lined up a Food Truck to serve a variety of food items at reasonable prices. The truck is very colorful and should draw even more people to Flea Fantasia.

As part of our revitalization project to connect with the Community, Westminster is again sponsoring the Lincoln Village Sale. Jim and Joyce Sizemore will obtain the Permit that will allow Westminster and everyone else in Lincoln Village to have sales without purchasing separate permits. We will be spreading the news on Nextdoor and Facebook Market Place.

We are looking forward to spending time with our congregants and neighbors and it's also fun to see all the things that come in for the sale. Remember everyone's trash is another person's treasure. We'll accept items through May 17 and please no TVs, computers or big furniture. Thank you.

~ Karen, Melinda, Trent and Jim

## Update from the Revitalization Committee

Bob, Chris, Karen, Lynne, Jim, Jon and Trent met with Elizabeth Hamilton from Holy Cow on March 20 to review the survey results. We had 28 respondents complete the survey and we thank everyone for taking the time to prayerfully consider and provide responses to the questions.

We spent two and a half hours going over the twelve pages of the results and it started many interesting discussions. As you may guess, the survey results were not totally surprising but not as disturbing as one might expect. It pointed out that there is need for change and the statistics indicate that there is an openness by our congregants to thoughtfully consider how Westminster functions.

The next step is to share the survey results with the congregation as a group and we want to do this within the next month. We have not figured out the how, where or timing. The Revitalization Committee and Session will meet to come up with a plan.

Thank you again for your participation and we ask for continued prayers for Westminster.

Blessings,

~ Bob, Chris, Lynne and Jim

## Additional information

**New Announcements:** Please email Melinda Rowe with any announcements or articles for the weekly bulletin or newsletter. Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. [tnmrowe@yahoo.com](mailto:tnmrowe@yahoo.com) If you need to call, you can reach me at 614-592-9357.

**Adult Bible Study** class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am during the school year, upstairs room 104.

**April WABA Meeting** – Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at JP's Barbecue, Bolton Field – please let Chris Stein know if you're interested in attending on behalf of Westminster. Lunch will be provided.

**Worship Committee** is looking for someone to run the powerpoint and/or Zoom. Training is available and all instructions are written out. Or if you know a 'techie' person who might be interested, please let Chris Stein know.

**Sign up for Sanctuary Flowers** – there is a sign up sheet for Sanctuary flowers in the Narthex. You can either bring your own arrangement(s) or Worship Committee will work with you to pick them up.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am - Easter Breakfast 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10:30am - Hybrid	1	2 4:30pm - Deacon Meeting	3 6pm - SCA Marche of 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	4	5	6 9am - SDA @ Sanctuary
7 The Lord's Supper 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10:30am - Hybrid	8	9 11:30am - Lunch Bunch	10 4:30pm - Administrative 6pm - SCA Marche of 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	11	12	13 9am - SDA @ Sanctuary 12pm - SDA Luncheon @ 5pm - Seventh Day
14 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	15	16	17 6pm - SCA Marche of 6:30pm - Session 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	18	19	20 9am - SDA @ Sanctuary
21 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10:30am - Hybrid	22	23	24 6pm - SCA Marche of 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	25	26	27 9am - SDA @ Sanctuary 5pm - Seventh Day
28 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10:30am - Hybrid	29	30 1pm - Book Discussion	1 6pm - SCA Marche of 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	2	3	4 9am - SDA @ Sanctuary