



March, 2024 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

Westminster is a congregation of warm, inviting, joy-filled people, waiting to hear God's instructions for your next steps as servants of the Lord. Thank you for welcoming me as your Gap Pastor. Since 2019 I have served at Rose Run Presbyterian, Prince of Peace Presbyterian, Covenant Presbyterian, Mifflin Presbyterian and St. Andrew Presbyterian churches in Columbus. Each is a unique congregation called by God to serve different communities in special ways. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all better.

My primary duties are to prepare worship and preach and moderate the Session meetings. I am available for emergency pastoral care. My cell is 740-502-3301. I will respond as soon as I can. I will not be keeping office hours, but you can email me at highpocketsjtc@yahoo.com. "Highpockets" was a nick-name the cook at college gave me when I worked in the dish room. He thought I was tall. 😊

The prophet Habakkuk said "I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what God will say to me and what God will answer concerning my complaint... If the vision seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay," (Habakkuk 2:1-13).

Will Westminster be a lifeboat helping to rescue the lost and needy in our neighborhood? Will Westminster be a house of refuge for those seeking to get away from the suffering of the world? Will Westminster be a garden where neighbors can plant vegetables and put food on their tables? My preaching will be meant to encourage you as you pray for a new vision for your future *and* continue doing the mission you have been doing for years.

Let us pray for the Revitalization Task Force. Let us watch together for the vision God will give to Westminster to become a new church, a congregation continually blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

~ Blessings and peace, in Christ, *Jon Carlisle*, Gap Pastor

Update from the Deacons

Report from the Deacons

We had 21 people attend the Lenten Fish Dinner on February 23rd including Don and Linda Crumley who are returning to Westminster. We had one take out and we delivered two dinners to one of our shut-ins. We had a great time and the food and desserts were delicious. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Fellowship Time falls on March 10th which is when Daylight Savings start so that cup of coffee will taste even better. It will be in the Upper Room from 10am to 10:25am

Please join us on March 12th for our monthly luncheon. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at York Steak House at 11:30. Bring your friends. Reservations are not required.

Please continue to watch for emails from the Deacons. We sent out Valentine's Day ecards. If you didn't see it, check your spam file or let us know and we will see if we can figure out what happened. If you want to contact the Deacons, the email address is thedeaconsatwpc@gmail.com, but it will be quicker if you call Pam, Kevin or Jim directly. We don't check the email address every day.

We will again be serving an Easter Day Breakfast on March 31st. It will start at 9am and will include breakfast casseroles, fruit and sweet rolls. One of our congregants has promised to bring a special treat and we excited to see what it will be. Bring your family and friends and Easter bonnets are encouraged.

Blessings,

Pam, Kevin and Jim

Clerk's Report

Worship and Music

A contract with Rev. Jon Carlisle to serve as our Gap Pastor through June 9, 2024 is awaiting Presbytery approval.

Reverend Kathy Nice will be in our pulpit on Easter Sunday.

Presbytery Report

Our Commissioner for 2024, Chris Stein reported that Living Stones will be the theme of the year

Emily Corzine is the new Presbyter for Congregation Life and Transitions. The Presbytery theme is Living Stones Bring Hope.

Clerk's Report

Don and Linda Crumley joined Westminster on February 21. Welcome Linda and Don!

Church Revitalization Task Force

Holy Cow surveys have been entered into their system. A date to review their report will be scheduled.

Property

New toilets for the men's restrooms have been purchased; an installation date will be scheduled. A work order is being prepared to fix the fabric on three pews.

Deacons

Easter Breakfast is planned for March 31, 2024 before worship.

Fellowship Sunday is on the second Sunday of the month at 10:00 A.M.

Lunch at York Steakhouse is on the second Tuesday. Everyone is invited to join the group!

Youth and Community Garden Report

The after-school garden program began February 28 and will run through May 29. Twenty kids were accepted into it.

Additional information

New Announcements: Please email Melinda Rowe with any announcements or articles for the weekly bulletin or newsletter. Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month. 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.

Zoom assistance needed. If you can help aim the camera during the service, you qualify! Please see Chris Stein.

Copies of the 2023 Annual Report & Contact List are available for those who were not at the congregational meeting January 28th.

March 2024

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

FROM THE FOOTSTOOL

THE WIND KNOWS MY NAME By Isabel Allende Fiction Available in LP

Five-year-old Samuel waits with his mother for the Kindertransport train to take him and other children to safety in England. It is 1938, and Austria is occupied by the Nazi regime. Jewish families are at high risk. He grasps his violin, waves to his weeping mother, not knowing he will never see his parents again. 80 years later he finds himself reliving all those emotions and experiences.

Move forward to 2019 when Anita Diaz, a child, with her mother are also fleeing their native country and family. Seeking refuge in the United States from El Salvador is their only chance to survive. The policies of the US include separation of children from their parents at the point of their arrival on American soil, thus creating an emotional turmoil.

When it becomes apparent that Anita's reunion with her mother will not happen, a social worker and her attorney seek a suitable solution. The additional problem of Anita's blindness adds stress to everyone. This is an emotional read—with highs, lows, and moments of subtle humor. It reads quickly, partly because you don't want it to stop. The past and present are intertwined, but not confusing. You will want to personally know the main characters and offer to help. Keep a tissue box nearby as tears may flow for the fictional story line, as well as for the realization that these conditions did, and may continue to exist.

A BLIZZARD OF POLAR BEARS by Alice Henderson Fiction Environmental Suspense

This is the second of three novels by Ms Henderson—the last one being mentioned in our November newsletter. The Canadian arctic around Hudson Bay is habitat for polar bears and a testing area for wildlife biologist Alex Carter. There are more sinister activities than polar bears, however, and Alex finds herself immersed in frigid conditions with people threatening her demise. Alex morphs

into more of a “Wonder Woman” than naturalist. This story is just too “over the top” with wondrous survival attempts. The evil forces are evil to the core, but the plot gets carried to extremes. A quick, fun read on a very hot day when you’re worried about the air conditioner running to expensive lengths. Otherwise, forget it!

THE WAGER By David Gann 910.452 W131 G759w

Available in Large Print

This was a new book listing when I ordered it. It was on the “best seller” list when it arrived, and was #1 nonfiction book when my reading was completed. This is a book that is worth its status!!! It is adventure, seamanship, horror, bravery and history concisely placed within 350 pages. You feel you are watching a Johnny Depp movie, but this story really happened (there are 90 pages of documented notes at the end to prove it). The Wager was a British ship which was part of an armada sailing to the Pacific around the tip of South America. However, getting personnel and supplies was difficult. Life on a 1700’s Man O War is well described. Phrases we use today are explained: “Pipe Down” and “Toe the Line” for example. Oceans rule and shipwrecks are evidence of a power which is not contained. After the wreck of the Wager the crew is stranded, and thus a new story of survival on a barren rock, resulting in murder, starvation, disease, and mutiny takes over. The ingenuity of the remaining crew is amazing, and while most of the original men on the ship are missing, a few begin a crazy, and courageous journey back to England.

The plot thickens as each crew member has a different version of the story to tell. Books are written and since there is no CNN or Fox News to elaborate, a hazy picture of the Admiralty emerges. It is imperative for the government to “save face.” Sailors missing for 5 years are court martialed, as the Royalty looks for a way out. This is a great read. Its grim reality is surpassed by an astounding determination for survival, and honor to the Navy.

Carolyn Moore