

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Service for the Lord's Day

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 22, 2020

Our Mission: "Caring, sharing and growing God's love in our communities."

For Reflection and Prayer

"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." ~Elie Wiesel

"Nothing is more practical than
finding God,
than falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination,
will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
what you read,
whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything." ~Attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe

Westminster Chimes

Words of Welcome

Organ Prelude “We Gather Together “ arr: Robert Lau

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

God has done great things for us, filling us with grace.

God fed our ancestors in the wilderness, God clothes us with hope.

We will offer our hearts to God, always saying, ‘Thank you!’ to the One who loves us.

We will sing our praises, shouting of God’s presence in our lives.

Hymn No. 367 “ Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God’s own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God’s own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,

Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear,

Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.

Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,

There forever purified, in thy presence to abide:

Come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home.

Prayer of Confession

In the midst of our thanksgiving,

let us pause in silence

to recall how we so often

lose sight of the gifts of each day

and of their Giver.

(a moment of silence)

Let us pray.
O God, we know that we forget about you,
we forget to love you,
we forget to help our neighbors,
we forget to thank you.

Forgive us.

(a moment of silence for private confession)

**Grant us clear minds to know you,
new hearts to love you
strong hands to serve you
Help us live this day, this week, and always
so that our whole life is a thanksgiving to you. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

God did not send Christ into the world to condemn the world,
but to be its Savior. We can trust God's word. We are a forgiven people.
Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
☐ **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 100

May these ancient words of scripture become for us the living voice of God.

☐ **Amen!**

Solo: "Love Ye The Lord" Handel

Soloist: Mary Beth Adair

Second Lesson Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

May these ancient words of scripture become for us the living voice of God.

☐ **Amen!**

Sermon "Fed with Justice"

Affirmation of Faith

**You call us to service;
to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world.**

**To open our eyes not only to the beauty and love which you create,
but the injustice, hate and suffering that humankind generates.**

**To open our ears not only to the chattering of this coming week,
but the searching, fears and questioning of all whom we shall meet.**

**To open our hands not only to those we choose our lives to share,
but in welcome, love and fellowship to all who you draw near.**

**To open our mouths not only to speak platitudes and simple words,
but the truths you lay upon our hearts.
Your Word for this, your world.**

**You call us to service,
to be your eyes and ears, hands and voice in this, your world.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Spirit of Love, as we bring our offerings to you today in acknowledgment of all that needs re-ordering in the world. We grieve the ways resources are hoarded and withheld. We pray that we may be delivered from any temptation to cling to what should be shared with our neighbors. Free us of the lies of individualism and move us ever deeper into solidarity with all life.

We dedicate our gifts to you, O God
Help us to use them to glorify you; to be vessels of your work in this world.
We dedicate our pledges to you, O God.

Guide our leaders as they prepare us financially for the upcoming year.

Use us, O God, to do your work in this world.

Encourage us to see that we are all ministers called into the Body of Christ. Use us in our service.

We pray over these gifts, blessing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn No. 643 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this words rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God’s grace, and guide us when perplexed.,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given;
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Benediction

By the grace of God, we have been set free from the patterns
and practices forced upon us.
Selfishness and greed do not have a hold on us.
Generosity and mutuality are the inheritance of our faith.
The Spirit sends us with joy and with hope
to live into the freedom of love.

Benediction Response

Remember in Prayer

*Pray for all those touched recently by violence and natural disasters,
the healing of national hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the homeless in our area,
and the following people:*

It is with deep sadness, but also with deep joy for his life of faith, service, and love that we want to let you know that Bob Moore passed away peacefully at home this week with Dee by his side. Please keep the entire Moore family in your prayers.

Sarah Altvater – *dealing with health issues while caring for Covid patients and going to school.*

Linda Book – *still dealing with pain and lack of strength.*

Barry Brown - *friend of Karen & Glenn Dixon hospitalized with pneumonia.*

Bonnie Charnock – *neighbor of Deb Norton’s sister, has continuing health issues.*

Carol Cordery - *co-worker of Sarah Altvater’s at Nanticoke who has contracted Covid-19 and is gravely ill.*

Frances Cowgill – *has a genetic condition causing serious loss of calcium in her bones. She is being treated on an outpatient basis with an intravenous calcium drip.*

Peter Culin – *Sue Culin’s brother-in-law, going back on chemotherapy.*

Susan Frost – *Sally Waugaman’s daughter, struggling with side effects from chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer.*

Leon Hendershot – *cousin of Sandra Hrin and Mary Boyer, has suffered liver failure and has been removed from the clinical trial at Sloan Kettering.*

Ginny Hendricks – *nurse at Nanticoke with Sarah Altvater, has contracted covid-19.*

Carol Jones – *hospitalized for medical condition and tests.*

Lib Macnab – *In rehab at The Moorings after partial hip replacement surgery.*

Judy Marsden – *friend of Deb Norton, still in discomfort due to chronic back pain.*

Dee Moore – *dealing with severe pain in her jaws.*

Mason Moore – *grandson of Bob & Dee Moore, knee surgery was successful but he will have a lengthy recovery period.*

Elise Moore – *Bob & Dee Moore’s daughter-in-law, recovering from knee surgery.*

Rev. Larry Neumark - *friend of Karen & Glenn Dixon who has a recurrence of prostate cancer.*

Joan Nicholls – *improving steadily.*

Deb Norton - *dealing with pain from a broken rib and tendonitis in her shoulder*

Bob Paulding - *released from hospital to a rehab facility where he is undergoing dialysis.*

Betty Pratt - *swelling in her legs greatly reduced as she undergoes massage therapy.*

Col. Richard Quinn (Ret.) – *slowly regressing as he deals with serious health issues*

Beth Rouleau – *a friend of Deb & Dave Norton, continues on medication for A-fib as cardiac ablation was halted.*

Samuel Ryan – *8 year-old grandson of Karen and Glenn Dixon, undergoing therapy.*

Mike Sant Angelo – *brother of a friend of Mary Boyer, failing and remains on hospice.*

Betsy Tellier – *Deb Norton’s niece, dealing with heart failure issues.*

Carl Wagner – *Bob & Jane Nicholson’s son-in-law, suffering from a herniated disk and a partial rotator cuff tear.*

Janet Waugaman – *Sally’s Waugaman’s daughter, continues to lose mobility due to Multiple System Atrophy.*

Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Karen Dixon by phone at 302-858-8968 or email at k_dixon221@hotmail.com

Announcements

Welcome to worship! If you would prefer to listen to the worship service by phone, you may contact Leslie Marsh; either send her an email (cmarshjr@verizon.net) or call her at (302-945-4604) to arrange a conference call in which you will listen to the service together.

Coming Soon! Zoom Worship during Advent: Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent (**November 29th**) and continuing through Epiphany (January 3rd), we will worship together **LIVE** on Zoom at 11:00AM (sign on as early as 10:50 am. Prelude music begins at 10:55 am). For security reasons, you must sign into the meeting between 10:50am-11:05 am. After 11:05 am we will lock the meeting and you will be unable to enter. This is to keep malicious “Zoom bombers” from entering our worship service. Also, for security, we will only send out the link to the Zoom call via the Weekly Email. If you need the zoom link or phone info for dialing in by phone, please contact the church office. The zoom information will be the same for each Sunday.

Our service will be around 40-45 minutes, with optional time for Zoom “coffee fellowship” immediately following worship, and utilizing zoom breakout rooms so that you can chat with fellow congregants in smaller groups.

On Sunday, December 20th, we will join our Sunday School Zoom Session at 10:00AM for a very special Christmas Pageant, including special music. There will be no service at 11:00AM.

If you cannot join us live on Zoom, please know that our service will be recorded and posted to our YouTube and Facebook sites after worship concludes. We will also send the recorded service out by email.

Please note that you will be muted upon entry to the Zoom worship service. This is to ensure the best sound for everyone and to encourage you to sing during the hymns. You will be unmuted for the “Passing of the Peace” and for “Coffee Fellowship” following worship. **If you join the call by phone, please know that you can dial *6 to mute/unmute yourself.** If joining from a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone, make sure that you have downloaded the latest version (Zoom 5.0) of Zoom. For best viewing, set to “Speaker view” except during the “Passing of the Peace” and “Coffee Fellowship” when you will want to change to “Gallery view.”

Stewardship Update:

Last month, Pastor Shannon and John Witmer wrote to all of you to kickoff Westminster Church’s 2021 Stewardship campaign focused on telling Our Money Story in light of God’s money story in scripture.

Initial results from our campaign are encouraging, and we are so fortunate to have an unnamed donor who will match any new or increased pledges for 2021! **But we need to call your attention now to a more immediate financial concern for the balance of 2020.**

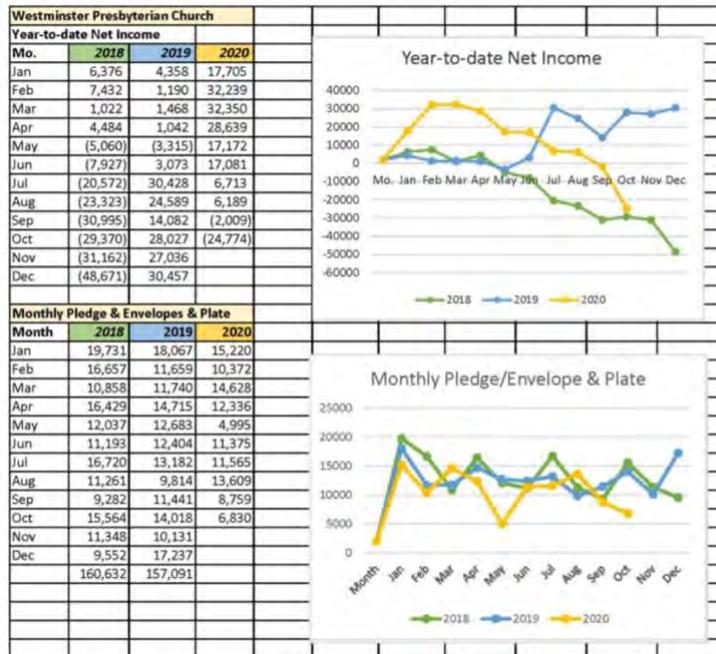
Check out the chart below that shows how monthly envelope and plate collections have declined significantly during September and October this year. Looking at this chart, we can see how receipts have declined by \$9,870 for these two months.

The church building is not open, but the work and expenses of the church go on. For example, since Pastor Shannon arrived in October, we have been blessed with:

- Praying the Psalms
- Weekly Bible Study
- Midweek Prayer and Devotion
- Baptisms
- Weekly broadcast Church Services
- Monthly drive-thru Holy Communion
- New Hand Chimes Choir
- Continued work of the Session, Deacons, and Committees

But during recent months, monthly church costs have risen rather than declined, as working remotely has increased our costs in technology. As the Finance Committee notes, any shortfalls this year will need to be made up next year.

So please consider prayerfully your commitment to “Caring, Sharing, and Growing God’s Love in Our Communities.” And try our [new online giving button on our website!](#)



Calendar

Praying the Psalms, Bible Study, and Hand Chimes Rehearsals are all ON BREAK for Thanksgiving Week!

Praying the Psalms and Bible Study will be on PAUSE during Advent as we take an Advent practice of Visio Divina together on Tuesdays (Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd) at 11:00AM on Zoom.

Upcoming Advent Events:

- Visio Divina (Advent Contemplative Scripture, Art, and Reflection): Tuesdays during Advent, on Zoom at 11:00AM
- Drive Through/Walk By Communion: Sunday, Dec. 6TH: 12-1PM, WPC Church Yard
- Angel Tree Tag Pick Up: Monday, Nov. 23rd & Nov. 30th: 12-2pm, WPC Narthex
- Angel Tree Gift Drop Off: Monday, Dec. 7th & Dec. 14th: 12-2pm, WPC Narthex
- Advent Walkthrough: Sunday, Dec. 13TH & 20TH : 12-2PM: WPC Sanctuary, RSVP [HERE](#)

***Protocol Requirements for all events:** Everyone entering the Church building & on church grounds will be required to wear a face mask covering nose and mouth, and adhere to social distancing.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Church Office Hours: 9:30 to 1:30 Tuesday through Friday

Telephone: (302) 227-2109

email: rehobothwpc20@gmail.com

web site: <http://www.westminster-rehoboth.org>

Music Director: Sally Waugaman

Church Secretary: Carol D. Jones

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe