

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Connections @ Westminster

March 21 – April 4, 2010

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Weekly Word

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of busily preparing for Holy Week at Westminster, that time in the church year in which we remember Jesus' Triumphal Entry in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his "last supper" with the disciples on Maundy Thursday, his trial and crucifixion on Good Friday, the church's waiting and hope on Holy Saturday, and of course, Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This Holy Week story is one that the Church has repeated for nearly 2,000 years. It is a significant story because so much happened in that one week of Jesus' ministry—events that would ultimately reveal God's saving grace in Jesus Christ.

It is important for obvious reasons to recount this story in the church. Holy Week is the "defining moment" of the Christian faith. But there is a danger inherent in retelling the story year after year. We take the story for granted. We co-opt it into the other seasonal events of spring. Jesus' dead body in the tomb becomes likened

to a tulip bulb lying dormant in the ground. Jesus' resurrection is no more unusual than new buds on a tree. It all can seem rather cyclical. Easter will be here soon ... make sure the lilies have been ordered!

Ironically, the Holy Week story is about a God who, through Jesus Christ, breaks a cycle-that terrible cycle of death. Jesus enters the capital city of Jerusalem to establish God's new reign of life. But that way of life is rejected (as it often is!), arrested, condemned, crucified, and buried in a sealed tomb. Once again the cycle of death seems to repeat itself. Business as usual. But the story isn't over. God chooses to shock the world. God breaks the seal of the tomb and raises his beloved Son from the dead. Easter is not about a God who does the same old thing year after year, but about a God who is able to do things that are surprisingly and shockingly new.

As we prepare to retell that ancient Holy Week story let us certainly remember, but let us also be open to a God who can break those cycles that hold us captive, and to a God who can make all things new!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Bill

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Calendar

Mar 21 - Sun	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	10:40 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	04:00 PM	Children's Choir	Room 14
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Lenten Spiritual Formation Group	Library
Mar 23 - Tue	09:30 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	07:00 PM	Session	Fellowship Hall
Mar 24 - Wed	09:00 AM	WPDS School Tours	Room 10
	09:30 AM	WPDS Church Times	Sanctuary
	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	06:00 PM	Lenten Soup Supper	Fellowship Hall
	06:45 PM	Lenten Worship Service	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Mar 25 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Mar 26 - Fri	10:00 AM	AARP Tax Counseling	Fellowship Hall
	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
Mar 27 - Sat	10:00 AM	Westminster Crafting Bee	
Mar 28 - Sun		PALM SUNDAY	
	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	Church School (for all ages)	
	10:40 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	04:00 PM	Children's Choir	Room 14
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
	05:00 PM	Lenten Spiritual Formation Group	Library

Mar 30 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
Mar 31 - Wed	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
1 - Thu		MAUNDY THURSDAY	
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
	07:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
Apr 2 - Fri		GOOD FRIDAY	
	09:00 AM	Good Friday Prayer Vigil	Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	AARP Tax Counseling	Fellowship Hall
	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:30 PM	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
Apr 3 - Sat		HOLY SATURDAY	
	07:00 PM	Great Vigil of Easter	Sanctuary

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Ashes to Fire: Lenten Season at Westminster

Join us each Wednesday evening during the Lenten season for Wednesday night soup suppers and worship. Soup suppers will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall followed by 6:45 p.m. worship in the sanctuary. Preachers for the *Ashes to Fire* series are:

March 24 **Robert Quiring**, Westminster's student intern and senior student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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Easter Brunch! Join us on April 4!

We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall between worship services (approx. 9:40 – 10:40) to enjoy another fabulous brunch as we gather a church community!

The menu is:

Frittata with eggs, sausage, bell peppers, onions and cheese baked in a hash brown crust (we have a meatless version as well)

Served with fresh salsa

Belgian Waffles with butter, maple syrup and strawberries & whipped cream

Assorted Mini Muffins

Strawberries and grapes

Coffee and Orange Juice

Adults \$8.00

Children 4-10 \$4.00

Children under 4 No charge with service plate

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Westminster Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday April 1, 7:30 p.m.

“Maundy,” derived from Latin *mandatum*, means **mandate**, or **commandment**. On this night,

we will gather for the celebration of the Lord's Supper and for foot washing, remembering Jesus' commandment to love and serve one another. At the conclusion of the service, the "stripping of the church" will remove or cover all textiles and images until Easter Eve.

The WPC Children's Choir will sing at this service.

Child care will be available.

Good Friday April 2

Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The sanctuary will be open all day for prayer and meditation as we prepare to witness and remember Jesus' death.

Service of Tenebrae 7:30 p.m.

This service of gathering darkness and prayer will include reading and hearing the story of Jesus' final hours of life.

Child care will be available.

Holy Saturday April 3

The Great Vigil of Easter 7 – 8:30 p.m.

One of the most ancient celebrations of the Church, the Easter Vigil calls us to gather in the evening darkness to celebrate the resurrection. The service involves lighting of the new fire to celebrate Jesus Christ as light of the world. We will read and experience stories of salvation from the Bible, as well as remember our baptisms and celebrate the Lord's Supper. This is a "child-friendly" service for people of all ages; it is very interactive, celebrative and participatory!

Bring whatever you consider "hot cross buns" to be to share during the fellowship time after the service.

Easter

8:15 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

Arrive a little early this Sunday morning, and bring some fresh cut flowers – from your yard, or from the store – to adorn the flower cross in the sanctuary.

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
Fellowship Hall

All are invited to eat a wonderful, scrumptious breakfast of frittata with eggs, sausage, bell peppers, onions and cheese baked in a hash brown crust, with fresh salsa (meatless version available). Belgian Waffles will also be served with butter, maple syrup and strawberries & whipped cream! We'll have assorted mini muffins, strawberries and grapes, coffee and orange juice

\$8 for adults, \$4 for children (4-10)

Children under 4 no charge with service plate

No church school this morning.

10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

All pre-schoolers and elementary children, this is for you! Bring your basket for a festive egg hunt with your WPC friends. There will be separate areas for different ages, so keep those rabbit ears tuned in on Easter morning so you'll hear the instructions.

10:45 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

Again, bring your flowers to decorate the cross.

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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One Great Hour of Sharing: sharing resources, changing lives

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to fill the basket with a One Great Hour of Sharing "fish bank." Extra fish banks are available in the narthex.

Click here for a One Great Hour Sharing video on our website. [One Great Hour of Sharing](#)

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Help Westminster Youth Collect Food for Manos de Cristo

The Westminster Youth are hosting a party and have invited some other local youth groups to join us at the end of spring break, March 21 in fellowship hall. Since it is a 70's themed party, we have also challenged every group to collect at least 70 cans of food to donate to a local food pantry. We are asking for your help in our endeavor. The food collected will go to Manos de Cristo. Help us reach our goal by bringing canned goods to the Narthex Sunday, March 21.

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Spring Cleaning? Manos Needs Clothes

Please consider donating your items to the Manos de Cristo Clothes Closet, where children's and men's clothing are always in short supply. Please contact Julie Ballesteros at 477-7454 if you have any questions.

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Worship

Sunday, March 21

5th Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Kathy Anderson

Liturgists: Bill Clark, Robert Quiring

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes, and After-Church Flower Deliverer:

After Church Elders: Kim Edwards, Trey Fyfe, Corrinne Bowers

Greeters: South Door, Curtis and Dorothy Andrews; North Door, Pat and Ben Boswell

Cookie Hosts: Dorothy Andrews and Pat Boswell

Acolytes: Walter Torres, Reilly Bennett, Kirby Steckel

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Amy Hoffman

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Robert Quiring

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Luke 19:28-40

Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes, and After-Church Flower Deliverer:

After Church Elders: Todd Davidson, Mike Cook, Jack Prince

Greeters: South Door, Linda Tyler and Lis Wise; North Door, Jim and Eleanor Cochran

Cookie Hosts: Sarah Almén and Eleanor Cochran

Acolytes: Mary Elizabeth Taylor, Louisa Ehrlich, Claudia Taylor

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Mary Tyson

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Adult Ministries

Adult church school, Sunday mornings 9:40 – 10:40 a.m.

the WPC website!

For more detailed descriptions, please visit

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

March 21 & 28 Lenten Study: *The Theology of Atonement*

Robert Quiring, Westminster Intern, Senior at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Bible Study – Room 9

Interested in reading and studying the Bible? No prior knowledge is needed, just your willingness to read the Bible and reflect on it with others! Join us!

Meet with the FORUM class during the season of Lent

MYConnection Class – Room 10

This class deals with a range of topics and issues related to parenting, family relationships, and being faithful Christians in the world today.

March 21 *Three Days*

How do the scriptures help us understand what the death of Jesus means for us, for the world, for God? What do we mean when we affirm that Jesus was raised from the dead? As we work our way toward Easter, join us as **Bill Clark** leads us in looking at and reflecting on the scriptural accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

March 28 *Being a Good School Parent*

Our own fabulous first grade teacher, Jill Clark, will help us look at preparing our children for school and also help us learn how to be a good "school parent."

The Thoughtful Christian Class – Library

March 21 *Eucharistic Abundance*

In the church, no matter how many are gathered at the Table, there is always room for one more. What are the consequences for a society that assumes there is not enough to go around? How do Christian practices of worship and assembly at the Lord's Table affect our understanding of daily work? These two questions frame this address by author and Austin Seminary professor David Jensen. Join us!

March 28 *The Religious Basis for the Declaration of Independence*

Facilitated by Steve Bowers.

**No Church School classes on Easter Sunday, April 4!
Join us for the Easter Brunch at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall!**

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Children's Ministries

Preschoolers: Preschoolers start in Room 14 for Song Time and the teachers will pick them up and take them to their classrooms. The children may be picked up in their room at the end of Sunday school. 2/3's will be in room 5 and the 4's/K's in room 4. Your child must be 2 by August 1st to be in the 2 year old class. Younger children may be taken to the nursery.

A **NURSERY** for our littlest members is in Room 2, staffed by a caring and trained team of child care workers. Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Westminster. The nursery, located in Room 2 of the Education Wing is available for infants through 5 years old.

Godly Play for Preschoolers on Sunday Morning

Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Westminster. We understand, however, that sometimes children grow restless, so during the 11 a.m. worship service, as a part of caring for our youngest saints, we offer a

nursery for infants and Godly Play for 3-5 year olds. Godly Play will begin at 11:15, but children may join us at any time after the Passing of the Peace. We ask that parents wait outside Room 13 after worship for children to be dismissed.

Elementary Age Children: Dwelling Places meets in Room 13.

March 7-28th – Spiritual Disciplines/ Holy Week

VBS - SAVE THE DATE!!!!

WPC Vacation Bible School will be August 9-13
More information will follow.

Children's Choir has started!!!

Karen Wagner will be leading the children's choir this spring. They meet in Room 14 from 4:00-4:45 on Sunday afternoons. It is for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Let Karen know if your child is interested. The children will be singing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Mother's Day.

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Youth Ministries

Church School classes for all youth meet each Sunday morning. in the Annex, located at the corner of Carlton and Hillview, just beyond the church parking lot.

Fellowship

March 21st (end of Spring Break) – we are hosting a PARTY and inviting some other youth groups.

In conjunction with this we are asking for canned goods that will be donated to Manos. The goal is at least 70 cans but would like double or triple that. We need your help!!!

Save the Date

High School Mission Trip Summer 2010 – June 20th – June 26th – To Texas City for Hurricane Clean up with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Middle School Mission Trip Summer 2010 – June 22nd – June 25th – Waxahachie, TX Presbyterian Children's home

Middle School (Grades 6 – 7)

Meets in the Annex Living Room
Topic: I Know My Bible

Senior High (Grades 9 – 12)

Meets in the Annex Red Room
Topic: A variety of resources focusing on our lives, current events, questions, and the role of faith in our lives.

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Fellowship

Thursday – April 8 -- instead of Thursday, April 1 (Maundy Thursday)

7 p.m. @ Opal Divine's, 700 West 6th Street

Topic: *Up!*

If you have a chance to watch the movies ahead of time, please do...but if you can't, don't stay away; there will be plenty to talk about.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! **Opal Divine's is on West Sixth Street across from Katz's Deli. This is a great place; we have the upstairs room all to ourselves!**

Here's a link to the website if anyone wants to preview the menu:

<http://www.opaldivines.com/freehouse/index.html>

There is a parking lot in the back and lots of street parking as well within a block or two that is generally free. Suggestion: Why not meet at the church parking lot and carpool with others? Talk it up; ask around; the less vehicles we have to park the easier it will be.

Adventures meets Tuesday, April 6 @ Noon in Fellowship Hall. Come and share some favorite experience, thought, or memory on which you reflect with interest.

Come at noon.

Bring your lunch

Bring a friend.

Enjoy the fellowship.

Don't miss it!

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Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, April 4 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **April 4.** And as we are fed at our Lord's table, we remember to feed others in need! Please remember to give for those who have less than we do.

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[Westminster Presbyterian Church](#), organized in 1947, is a congregation of [Mission Presbytery](#), the [Synod of the Sun](#), and the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#).