



The Westminster Messenger

Westminster Presbyterian Church • 262 State Street • Albany • New York • www.wpcalbany.org

April 2012
In this Issue:

Pastoral Reflections
Page 2

Easter at WPC
Page 3

Music News
Page 4

Children &
Youth News
Page 5

Member News
Page 6-7

Mission
Page 8-9

Lectionary &
Second Hours
Page 10

Church Calendar
Page 11

2
4
7
8
10
11

We live on this side of the resurrection.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ is alive. And because Christ lives, we too, shall live.

Lent teaches us at what great price we were bought; what great sacrifice it took to ransom us from the bonds of death. The Lenten vigil of the passion of Jesus Christ brings depth and meaning to Easter morning. Once we have witnessed the last hours of Jesus' life, we know that Jesus cried real human tears, shed real human blood, and died a real human death. And so Easter becomes a true victory of life over death.

But our faith does not stay on Good Friday. We are compelled to move forward to Easter Sunday, to the empty tomb and beyond. Christians are Easter people, and we are to live as people who have been given the victory through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The New Testament is rife with affirmations of victory: "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us," writes the Apostle Paul. He writes to the church in Corinth, "Death has been swallowed up in victory ... Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

We can live confidently even in the shadow of death because the grave is not our eternal resting place. Easter people believe that the God who made us will care for us beyond the bounds of our vision, even to eternal life. The victory of life has been won ●

Pastoral Reflections:

Pastor Frances Rosenau

I have been to some miserable Easter Sunrise services - miserable because of the weather. When I was in college in Chicago, we had our sunrise service on the beach looking out on Lake Michigan. They don't call it the Windy City for nothin'!

Yet, there's something about the Easter Sunrise service.

When worship is inside, we go to every effort to make things comfortable, though some straight-backed pews may not give one that impression. We have heat or air-conditioning in our sanctuaries, sound systems that allow people to hear and often a raised chancel or pulpit in order to see the worship leaders.

The Sunrise service is none of these things. Bleary-eyed worshipers gather in the cold, often the very cold, with no sound system and their programs flapping in the wind. Sometimes it rains heavily or is so cloudy that the service is completely in the dark from beginning to end.

Yet, there's something about the Easter Sunrise service.

On Easter morning, we are completely out of our element, we 21st century Northern Hemisphere Christians who like to be in control. This worship service is purposefully not about our comfort level but about the message and the experience.

Perhaps we need to be reminded that worship is not about us, that the Gospel is uncomfortable, that God does not dwell in a building.

May the Sunrise service dwell in *us* this Easter season.

Much of this article is included in a blog reflection, written the day after Easter 2011 •

Easter at Westminster

Each year the cycle of Holy Week services at Westminster Church is a series of deeply moving, meaningful experiences for all who attend. This year will be no exception.

Special Music to Highlight Holy Week and Easter

- On **Palm Sunday**, our morning service of word and sacrament will open with the traditional procession with palms and will include festive hymns as well as musical offerings by the Westminster Choir, the Westminster Children's Choir, and the Westminsterrels Handbell Choir.
- On **Maundy Thursday**, the Westminster Choir will again lead our hymn singing, and will present anthems by Maurice Duruflé and John Stainer.
- The choir will return on **Good Friday night**, to guide us through a unique service of **Tenebrae**. This service will focus on the text of the ancient Good Friday antiphon known by its opening Latin words, Adoramus Te: "We adore You, O Christ, and bless you; for by your cross and precious blood You have redeemed the world." Over the centuries, these words have been set to music by countless composers. Our choir will sing several of these musical settings in alternation with scripture readings describing the final hours of Jesus' earthly life. Throughout the service, a slideshow of artwork depicting Christ's passion will complement the music and the readings.

- Finally, on **Easter morning**, we will be joined by the Catskill Brass and Timpani, for a joyous celebration of the resurrection. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed, and the service will close with the joyous strains of the Hallelujah Chorus. We hope you will be with us as we journey together from Palm Sunday to Easter.



Music at WPC:

A Musical April

by Alfred Fedak

AL FEDAK AND WESTMINSTER'S ORGAN ON NPR

If you tune in to WMHT-FM 89.1 on Sunday evening, April 15, you can hear Al Fedak playing one of his own compositions on Westminster's pipe organ on American Public Radio's nationally-syndicated broadcast, Pipedreams. The program, hosted each week by Michael Barone, will include Al's "Variations on 'Beach Spring'", a piece commissioned by the Organ Historical Society for its 50th anniversary convention. The recording is from Al's 2008 CD "Come, Creator Spirit: Fedak Plays Fedak at Westminster Church." The show starts at 8:00 PM. (The CD is still available for purchase for \$15 through the church office.)

MOSAIC-ARTS STUDENT CONCERT: APRIL 28

At 7:00 PM on Saturday evening, April 28, Mosaic-Arts, our resident opera company, will present the winners of its first vocal performance competition in a concert called "Student Symposium." The concert will take place in our church sanctuary. Admission is free, donations are welcome, and a reception will follow. Come hear tomorrow's singers today!

ORGAN RECITAL BY CRAIG CRAMER: APRIL 13

At 7:30 PM on Friday evening, April 13, organist Craig Cramer will perform a solo recital on Westminster's historic Skinner organ. Dr. Cramer, professor of organ at Notre Dame University, is one of the most widely-traveled organists of his generation. With degrees from Westminster Choir College and Eastman School of Music, he has performed in 44 of the United States, and throughout Canada and Europe, where he has given concerts on nearly every important and historic organ. He has recorded several highly-reviewed CDs, and recently performed the complete organ works of J. S. Bach in a series of 18 recitals. His program at Westminster will include music of Bach, Mendelssohn, and Sowerby, as well as lesser-known works by Ethel Smyth, Toni Zahnbrecher, and Auguste Fauchard. A freewill offering will be received, and refreshments will follow the concert. Come and hear one of America's finest organists on one of America's finest organs!

We hope you will include some or all of these special musical events in your Easter observance this year. Al Fedak ●



Children and Youth

The Confirmation

Class is busy. Saturday, April 21st they will travel to Schoharie to join the presbytery in a mission project. The 5 confirmands will have a unique opportunity to observe part of the presbytery meeting and then put their faith in action with the clean up. Your prayers are appreciated! ●

Did you know that the best way for someone new to come to church is simply to invite them? On Sunday April 22nd we are encouraging all Church School kids to take part in, "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday". What better way to spend a Sunday than with a good friend?

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday April 22nd

Kids and parents plan now! April 22nd is the Sunday after the Congregational Brunch. Older kids might choose to have a Saturday sleep-over and have their friends attend church the next morning. How about picking up a friend on the way to church bring them home for lunch and a play date afterwards? Need more enticements? April 22nd is a Worship Plus Sunday. We'll have a great lesson and activity on the Lord's Prayer.

We think Westminster is a great place for worship and community. Let's encourage our friends to join us!●



Celebrating Westminster Meg Elbow

by Sue Barwig

In 1921 a little house on the prairie stood in Alberta, Canada. There was no plumbing and electricity, and it was cold. Its occupants had only bare necessities. It is where Margaret Augusta Boulton, our beloved Meg Elbow, was born.

Despite hardship, the Boulton children would be well educated. At twelve, Meg rode on a "passenger boat" to England and remained there for ten years, earning a degree in early childhood education, and commencing a life of adventure. World War II broke out, and in 1943 Meg returned to Canada where various jobs sustained her until she left for the US several years later.

Meg attended Columbia University where she caught the eye of Matthew Elbow, a doctoral student. They married in 1947. When Matt accepted a teaching job at Albany State Teachers College, they moved to an apartment here. Another tenant, whom Dr. Welles visited frequently, made introductions, and Dr. Welles urged Meg and Matt to "try" Westminster. They joined in 1950, became Elders, Deacons, teachers, "Cooks and Bottle Washers," - Pillars of the Church!

Soon, they moved to Delmar and raised their three daughters. With grants from the College, Matt traveled to the Middle East to teach, and his family was with him - a year in Beirut, a year in Turkey. Over the years they traveled the globe.

Meg's life, far from easy, has been rich with blessings; she's had struggles, hopes and victories. She says that her "mantra"(from the Gospel of Mark) is "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." Her "crutch is the ability to shut out bad thoughts." ●





Help Create New Alley Garden

Schuyler Inn Party

The Board of Trustees

recently had removed a potentially dangerous brick wall at the sidewalk on the northeast corner of the church. If you look through the alley now, it is a barren wasteland. The Trustees are planning improvements to the alley space with the overall goal of attractive space at a low cost, with low maintenance.

We would appreciate the help of congregation members in several ways:

- ① Help on Earth Day, Saturday, April 21 from 9 AM on (rain day April 28), to spread compost, rake, dig, cheer on gardeners, and help make way for new plantings
- ② Look at your gardens and see what shade perennials you might consider donating for the project e.g. unique hosta, myrtle, pachysandra etc.
- ③ Share any ideas that you have for the garden spaces on either side of the winding sidewalk between State and Chestnut. The City Gardener is giving us advice as well as the Albany County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program, but your advice is valued also.

Please bring your own garden tools, such as rakes, shovels, picks, etc., and sturdy work gloves to the Earth Day work day. Please email Dodie Seagle dpseagle@verizon.net with shade plants you might be willing to contribute.

Board of Trustees, Forrest Holroyd, Chair
Dodie Seagle, Grounds Committee Chair

The Westminster Mission

Committee is seeking volunteers and donations of inexpensive outdoor children's toys for the Schuyler Inn party on Sunday, April 22: 1 p.m. set-up; 2 p.m.- 4 p.m., party (including Bingo). Mary Jean Tedrow is the Westminster coordinator for the party also co-sponsored by Kids' Club volunteers and the Zonta Club of Albany.

Bring donations to WPC on April 15 or April 22 and leave in small meeting room for Mary Jean. Suggestions: soft bouncy balls or foam balls available from a discount store or small plastic bottles of bubbles--no balls hard enough to break a window ●



Good
Friday
Noon
Service

CRTC:
Sign up
for a
Class

FROM CACC

Friends,
Holy Week is fast approaching so we wanted you to be aware of the ecumenical Good Friday worship service sponsored by the Capital Area Council of Churches and hosted by the First Church in Albany beginning at noon on Friday, April 6. The church is located at 110 North Pearl St. (opposite Capital Rep Theater).
We hope you can spread the word and please encourage folk who live or work in downtown Albany to join us.
Thank you!
Peace,
Kitt Jackson, CACC Administrative Director ●

IN THE POTTER'S HAND: SPIRITUAL FORMATION, w/ Sister Kitty Hanley at Westminster Presbyterian Church: Begins April 11; A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course. \$275; \$250 to Audit.

DR. RANDALL ZACHMAN/ FR. DENNIS TAMBURELLO DIALOGUE, Siena College, April 20, 6:30-8:30 pm, \$35.

WORKS OF LOVE: THE CHALLENGE OF BEING A DISCIPLE, w/ Dr. Randall Zachman, Siena College, April 21, 9am- 4pm; Explore the call to discipleship through the theology of Soren Kierkegaard—Dr. Zachman makes it understandable for everyone! \$95; Combined with Friday Dialogue: Both events \$105. Reg. deadline: April 5, 2012.

UNPROTECTED TEXTS: MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SEXUALITY & THE BIBLE, w/ Dr. Jennifer Knust, Colonie Community Reformed, May 10 & 11, 9am- 4pm; This author and B.U. professor provides a compassionate and liberating model for navigating what the Bible does or does not say about human sexuality. One day: \$95 thereafter; Both days: \$165. Reg. deadline: April 24, 2012.

GET ON BOARD! CRTC RIVER CRUISE ON THE HUDSON, May 21, 2012, 5:30-9:00 pm, Learn and have fun while you and a team from your congregation explore resources to enrich your congregation. Speed-resourcing with the professionals! Music, hors d'oeuvres, and more. See website for details! \$200/ team of 4. \$100 individual. Register by May 7.

A WALK IN THE WOODS: BACKPACKING 2012, w/ Rev. Kent Busman, Camp Fowler, April 27-29, 2012, Join other pilgrims on this challenging journey on the North side of the Siamese Ponds. \$275. Reg. deadline: April 14, 2012.

SHANE CLAIBORNE: A CALL TO THE SIMPLE WAY OF RADICAL CHRISTIANITY, Emmanuel Baptist in Albany, June 22 & 23. Explore issues of peace-building, social justice and the call to truly live like Jesus in your neighborhood. Age 25 & under: \$10 for both events!

Congregational Brunch

April
15th

by Ann Treadway

This year's congregational brunch, one of Westminster's oldest and most popular traditions, will be held on the Sunday after Easter, April 15, in the Assembly Room, directly following the morning worship service.

"The Holy Spirit is Our Comforter" (John 14:26-27) is the brunch theme chosen by the Session, whose members will lead the program. Two 50-year church members will be honored.

The buffet meal will feature "comfort food," such as fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, and pizza. The Deacons are in charge of food this year, and feel a big part of their mission is to bring comfort to parishioners in whatever form. Brunch guests are asked to contribute side dishes or desserts they particularly associate with comfort. (Chocolate, anyone?)

The Trustees are responsible for hospitality and clean-up this year.

Deacons Carolyn Smith and Lois Wilson have led overall planning for the brunch, and urge everyone to plan to attend this most popular event ●

Sermons & Second Hours:

- APRIL 1** Palm Sunday **Communion** **JOHN 12:12-26**
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Falling Man"
2nd Hour: Jesus Enters the City of Albany 2012
- APRIL 5** Maundy Thursday **Communion** **1 CORINTHIANS:23-26**
Pastor Rosenau, preaching "Until All are Fed"
- APRIL 6** Good Friday
Tenebrae Service
- APRIL 8** Easter Sunday **Communion** **MARK 16:1-8**
Pastor Reisner, preaching "The Gift Half Understood"
- APRIL 15** Easter 2 **ACTS 4:23-35**
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Holy Boldness"
2nd Hour: Congregational Brunch
- APRIL 22** **ROMANS 8**
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Does Salvation Include the Earth?"
2nd Hour: Gifts Inventory Part 1: Elders Arthur Fullerton and Judy Hartley
- APRIL 29** **ACTS 4:5-14**
Pastor Rosenau, preaching "Who Do You Think You Are?"
2nd Hour: Gifts Inventory Part 2

Church Calendar

This Month's Events:

APRIL

1 PALM SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour

3

7:00 am-9 am
FOCUS Breakfast

4

7:00 am-9 am
FOCUS Breakfast

5

7:00 am-9 am
Last FOCUS Breakfast
7:30 pm
Maundy Thursday Communion Service

6

7:30 pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Service

8 EASTER SUNDAY

9:45 am Pre-Service Music
10:00 am Worship and Communion

13

7:30 pm
Craig Cramer Organ Recital

14

6:30-9:00 pm
Youth to Hockey Game

15 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Congregational Brunch
11:15 am Second Hour
8:00 pm Al Fedak on NPR

16

Noon
Editorial Deadline
for May Newsletter

17

7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
7 pm Session

18

7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
7 pm Christian Life & Learning

19

7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

21

8:30 am-1 pm
Confirmation Class Work Day
in Schoharie
10 am-12 pm
Church Work Day

22 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship Plus for Kids
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
11:30 am Young Adult Brunch
7:00 pm Youth Group

24

7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
7 pm Deacons

25

7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press

26

7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

28

7:00 pm MOSAIC-ARTS Concert

29 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour

30

7:00 pm Mission Committee

Upcoming Events:

MAY

6 SUNDAY

1 pm CROP Walk

12

Capitol Chamber Artists
7 pm Recital
8 pm Concert

13 SUNDAY

Mother's Day

JUNE

3 SUNDAY

Last Choir Sunday
Dvorak Mass in D in Worship

10 SUNDAY

Youth Sunday & Church Picnic

17 SUNDAY

Father's Day

04
20
12



Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street
Albany, New York 12210

Westminster Presbyterian Church

CHURCH OFFICE- Spring Hours

9 am- 3 pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

Pastor: James L. Reisner

Associate Pastor: Frances Wattman Rosenau

Parish Associate: Paul Randall

Minister of Music and Arts: Alfred V. Fedak, FAGO, ChM

Associate Minister of Music and Arts: Susan Hermance Fedak

Director of Christian Education: Jeanne Bianchine

Administrative Secretary: Nancy J. Sokil

Sextons: Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

E-Mail: info@wpcalbany.org

Web: www.wpcalbany.org

Facebook: Westminster Albany

Twitter: [jim_reisner](https://twitter.com/jim_reisner)

The Messenger is published 10 times a year.

Editor: Nancy Burton

Graphic Design: Jeanne Bianchine

**May newsletter submissions are due by Noon on April 16.
Please send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com**