



EASTER
2014

Update

THE
WESTMINSTER
MESSENGER

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

The Gospels tell the drama of the reconciliation of humanity to God that is accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this Season of Lent, Westminster's worship will center on the theme of 'Stories of Reconciliation.' As we trace Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, we will retell stories of Jesus' encounters with individuals and communities on his way to the cross. We will also reflect on our own stories, our own journeys, and how God is still active today in the work of reconciliation. n that God has called us ●

"In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's Self"

--II Corinthians 5:20

The Gospels tell the drama of the reconciliation of humanity to God that is accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this Season of Lent, Westminster's worship will center on the theme of 'Stories of Reconciliation.' As we trace Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, we will retell stories of Jesus' encounters with individuals and communities on his way to the cross. We will also reflect on our own stories, our own journeys, and how God is still active today in the work of reconciliation.

We welcome you to join us in the journey of Lent, as we seek as individuals, and as a community grounded in the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, to become the ambassadors of reconciliation that God has called us to be ●

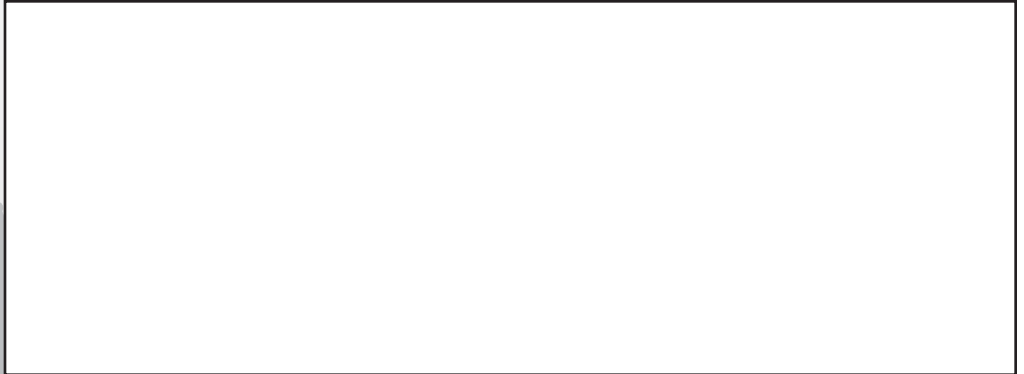
-- Pastor Jim Reisner



THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER

Lent is the season in the church year when Christians focus on the cross. We trace the path that Jesus travelled that led to his death at Calvary. We see in the person of Jesus --his words, his actions and his manner-- the love of God revealed in its purest form. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13). Some Christians object to Lent’s focus on human suffering and Jesus’ death. Robert Schuller, for one, said he didn’t believe in Lent. He redefined it to match his “possibility thinking” with the acronym, “Let’s Eliminate Negative Thinking.” Schuller’s acronym invokes the philosophy of his mentor, Norman Vincent Peale. Peale had a vast influence on American Protestantism. His best known book was entitled, “The Power of Positive Thinking.” Reinhold Niebuhr once wrote, “Christians in America would like to believe in a God without wrath that saves a world without sin through a Christ without the cross.” Niebuhr likely had Peale in mind when he authored that phrase.

We begin Lent by acknowledging our mortality as the ashes are



Lent is the season in the church year when Christians focus on the cross. We trace the path that Jesus travelled that led to his death at Calvary. We see in the person of Jesus --his words, his actions and his manner-- the love of God revealed in its purest form. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13). Some Christians object to Lent’s focus on human suffering and Jesus’ death. Robert Schuller, for one, said he didn’t believe in Lent. He redefined it to match his “possibility thinking” with the acronym, “Let’s Eliminate Negative Thinking.” Schuller’s acronym invokes the philosophy of his mentor, Norman Vincent Peale. Peale had a vast influence on American Protestantism. His best known book was entitled, “The Power of Positive Thinking.” Reinhold Niebuhr once wrote, “Christians in America would like to believe in a God without wrath that saves a world without sin through a Christ without the cross.” Niebuhr likely had Peale in mind when he authored that phrase.

We begin Lent by acknowledging our mortality as the ashes are imposed upon our foreheads: “Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return.” The Cross symbolizes that life is filled with