



# THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER

*He is not here...  
for He is Risen!*

Westminster Presbyterian Church • 262 State Street • Albany • New York • [www.wpcalbany.org](http://www.wpcalbany.org)

## *Easter 2015*

**In this issue:**

*Pastoral Reflections*  
Page 2

*Eastertide & Brunch*  
Page 3

*Easter Experience*  
Page 4

*Spring  
African Dinner*  
Page 5

*Easter &  
Looking Ahead*  
Page 6 & 7

*Deacons &  
Conversations*  
Page 8 & 9

*CROP Walk*  
Page 10

*Calendar*  
Page 11

Come - Because Easter is hard to believe...

*Let us be perfectly clear; we need the church not because the church is good or the people are good or the minister is good, but because this is the God given place where we can sing ourselves into belief and Easter is hard to believe!*

**Palm Sunday • March 29**

10:00 am Come to a Parade!

Philippians 2: 5-11 - "Empty" - Jim Reisner, preaching  
Dedication of The One Great Hour of Sharing  
Second Hour - Westminster Dreams a New Future II

1:00 pm Prayer in the African Way

**Maundy Thursday • April 2**

7:30 pm Come to a Meal!

John 13: 1-17; 31-35 - "The Upper Room"  
Together we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**Good Friday • April 3**

7:30 pm The Road to Calvary  
Christ's Passion in words and music

**Easter Sunday • April 5**

6:30 am - FOCUS Easter Dawn Service @ West Capitol Park

7:05 am Community Breakfast - Emmanuel Baptist Church

10:00 am FESTIVAL WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Mark 16:1-8 - "Faith Is All" - Jim Reisner

11:15 - 11:45 am Children's Easter Experience

# Pastoral Reflections

Pastor Jim Reisner

## “DO NOT BE AFRAID”

The emotion we associate most with Easter is joy. We hear joy in the shouts of Alleluia, and in the triumphant hymns that we sing. We proclaim the victory of life over the powers of sin and death. We rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead as the opening of the portals to eternal life. So joy is our emotion on this Easter morning.

But as we read the Easter stories in all the Gospels, there is another emotion referred to more often than is joy. That emotion is fear. In the Gospel of Matthew, fear is mentioned four times in the short Easter narrative.

“Do not be afraid.” This was the Easter message of the angels to the frightened women at the tomb. “Do not be afraid” is our Easter message today.

Fear is a destructive force. President Franklin Roosevelt had it right when he said in his first Inaugural address, given at the depths of the depression in March of 1933. *“So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”*

Fear is more crippling than any disability, any disease, any physical limitation, or financial circumstance. Do you recall Matthew’s description of the soldiers at the tomb? *“For fear ... the guards shook and became like dead men.”* That is what fear can do. Fear can render a person as good as dead.

## “Fear is the open door”

Fear is the open door that leads to hatred, and to the demonization of the other. Fear is at the cold heart of racism. Fear is at the root of our nation’s callousness towards immigrants. Fear is the source of our tolerance of the practice of torture. Fear leaves us vulnerable to be won over by the principalities and powers that promise us safety if we give our allegiance. Fear places us beside Pilate at the basin washing our hands of our tolerance of and complicity in acts of injustice. Fear is at work when we ask a power other than God to be our savior.

*“Perfect love casts out fear.”* The perfect expression of God’s love exhibited in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ casts out fear.

Friends: Jesus Christ is risen from the grave. Because he lives, we, too, shall live. **Do not be afraid** ●



*Eastertide  
&  
Congregational  
Brunch*

## EASTERTIDE AT WESTMINSTER

In the final scene of “The Last Temptation of Christ”, as Jesus cries from the cross, “It is finished”, the narrative concludes with these words, “*To those who heard, it sounded as though he was saying, ‘It has begun.’*” Easter is a beginning. For fifty day, his friends remain in Jerusalem, uncertain, confused, waiting. This is the Season of Eastertide.

### Sunday, April 12

10:00 Worship I John 1:1-10  
Frances Rosenau Preaching “Toward Jesus”  
Second Hour

### Sunday, April 19

10:00 Worship I Corinthians 15: 51-58  
Jim Reisner Preaching “The Sure and Certain Hope”  
After Worship - Congregational Brunch

### Sunday, April 26

10:00 Worship Psalm 23; John 10: 11-19  
Jim Reisner Preaching “The Good Shepherd”  
Second Hour - Westminster Dreams a New Future III  
1:00 - Prayer in the African Way

### Sunday, May 3

10:00 Worship *Communion*  
Jim Reisner Preaching John 6:35-51  
Second Hour “The Bread of Life”

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH: April 19, 2015

Think and celebrate spring! You are all cordially invited to the delicious, beautiful tradition at Westminster Church on Sunday, April 19th, immediately following the worship service. Families and people of all ages are welcome. This is a wonderful time to visit with the many friends of Westminster, to savor memorable food, and to honor and congratulate the 50 year members at Westminster—those who have joined the church 50 or more years ago. The beautiful flower center pieces will be available for donation that will help the Youth Group for their work trip in Pittsburgh PA this summer.

The three church boards are working hard to put on this special happening at Westminster. We will provide the main course, a salad, and beverages; all we ask is that you sign up on the boards provided on the three Sundays before the brunch and list there a side dish or a dessert that you would like to bring. Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you!

### The Brunch Committee:

Board of Deacons: Food (Nathan Powers and Larry Volk, Brunch Co-chairs)  
Session: Serving and Program (Sheila Wrede)  
Trustees: Cleanup (John Bossung)

# Education & Easter Experience for Kids

## KERYGMA DISCIPLES TO MEET APRIL 9

Kerygma Bible Study will resume four days after Easter on Thursday, April 9th at 5:30 pm the church. Class assignment is chapter 23 in the resource book, "The Spirit" - a look at events in the book of Acts following Jesus' resurrection. The final 8 weeks of the two-year study will conclude May 28th. Class leader is Parish Associate Rev. Paul Randall.

## Easter Experience

### EASTER EXPERIENCE FOR KIDS

Daddy, Mommy, what is Easter? Have you ever struggled to make the resurrection story come alive for your children?

Easter morning after worship, children will experience the last few days of Jesus' life. Children will start around a table in a Last Supper, then soldiers will come to arrest them and take them to a judge. They will sit at the foot of a cross and spend time in darkness of the tomb. At last, they will experience the joy of Easter morning and the resurrection of Jesus!

Please pray for this experience that it will touch the lives of our children. Also, we are looking for parents to help guide children through the experience. Contact Pastor Frances if you would like to help. ●



# African Spring Dinner



## AFRICAN SPRING DINNER FUNDS PROJECTS

African Spring Dinner attendees and sponsors united March 21 to raise money for projects in Liberia and Sierra Leone and to advocate for “Safe Water; Enough Food to Eat; Access to Basic Education for Every Child.”

In 2015 WPC will send more than \$10,000 to the Hope Mission School in Paynesville, Liberia (now registered with the Liberian government) for scholarships, teacher training, textbooks and support for 11 Ebola orphans.

WPC seek partners to deliver food four times this year to 200 orphans at the MASS ORPHAN MISSION (MOM) in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Elder Fatmata Hilton said, *“These children deserve the basic requirements that every child needs -- Food, clothing and shelter. I am appealing to everyone to please help.”*

## ASSOCIATION HONORS WPC

Westminster recognized on March 7 by the Ghana Association with an Outstanding Humanitarian Work among African Immigrants in the Capital District of New York State award. Rev. Jim Reisner accepted the award for WPC. ●



# Music for Holy Week



## MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

As Christians everywhere observe the holiest week of the liturgical year, we at Westminster Church will have our own Holy Week services enriched by some very special music.

On Palm Sunday, the entire congregation will be invited to join the ministers, choir, and church school children in our traditional procession with palms. Later in the service, the children will join the Westminster Choir in the singing of “Hosanna to the Son of David.” The choir will also sing “Lift Up Your Heads” from Handel’s MESSIAH.

At our Maundy Thursday communion service, Westminster’s choir will sing works by Al Fedak and Luigi Cherubini, and will be joined by cellist Petia Kassarova in an arrangement of the spiritual “He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word.” Ms. Kassarova will also play “Sharp Stones” by Al Fedak, a piece he wrote especially for her, which depicts a solemn religious pilgrimage, or, in a larger sense, the spiritual journey of a faithful soul.

On the evening of Good Friday, our choir will present THE ROAD TO CALVARY, a poignant service which tells the tale of Christ’s passion through a sequence of scripture readings and Bach Chorales sung by soloists, small ensembles, and the full choir.

Finally, on Easter Sunday morning, the choir will present a variety of anthems by Craig Phillips, Alice Parker, Robert Shaw, and Joseph Clokey. The service will close with the choir and congregation singing Richard Hillert’s “Festival Cantic: Worthy Is Christ.”

Come to worship, come to listen, come to sing!

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## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flowers: If you wish to contribute to the Easter Flower Fund to memorialize or honor a family member or friend, please send your gift in any amount to the church office by March 29. Please include the name(s) of the person(s) with your donations. These names will be published in the Easter bulletin. Thank you ●

# Looking Ahead to May

## LOOKING AHEAD

On Friday, May 1, at 7:30 PM, Steven Ball, organist of Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall, will play a recital on Westminster Church's historic E.M. Skinner pipe organ. Dr. Ball, who is also Artist-in-Residence at Philadelphia's Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, is both an outstanding classical concert artist and a brilliant theatre organist. In Atlantic City he presides over the world's largest pipe organ. His performances are always spectacular, exciting, colorful, and fun! Plan to come and enjoy the music: admission is free, a freewill offering will be received, and refreshments will follow.

The next morning, in our chancel, Dr. Ball will lead a workshop for church organists. Both his concert and workshop are being jointly underwritten by the Eastern New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and by Westminster Church's newly-established Performance Fund, which depends entirely on offerings and donations for its ongoing support of this musical outreach. We always welcome your generosity!

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## FOCUS EASTER DAWN SERVICE

Wake up early and join us at the FOCUS Churches Easter Dawn Resurrection Service on Easter morning, April 5 at 6:30 am at the West Capitol Park.

**EASTER**

FOCUS Churches

**DAWN**

West Capitol Park

The Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, Associate Regional Minister for the American Baptist Churches of NYS will share Easter reflections.

A Community Breakfast follows at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 7:05 am. ●



Deacons

&

Second Hour

“Conversations”

## KNOW YOUR DEACONS BY LARRY VOLK

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:16) The role of your Deacons is to help tend the flock at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The Book of Order puts it this way, “The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.” You have elected as your Deacons the people identified below. We are here to help. We are here to assist. Should you, or others you know in the Westminster family, need a ride to church, help in getting to the doctor - a friend to talk to - please call on us. Over the next several months, we will be providing short biographies for the Deacons so that you can better know who we are. In the meantime, if there’s something we can help with, please contact the moderator listed below or one of the ministers through the Westminster Church office 436-8544.

Board of Deacons: Dorothy Seagle, Moderator [dpseagle@verizon.net](mailto:dpseagle@verizon.net) 439-7061; Mary Green, Secretary/Co-Moderator; Cynthia Dwyer; Nathan Powers; Cynthia Falle; Benjamin Quaye; Cheryl Macculloch Foy; Sarah Sebagala; Claudia Hartmark; Carolyn Smith; Marie McClumpha; and Larry Volk. ●



## SECOND HOUR CONVERSATIONS BEGIN

The first of five Second Hour conversations began on March 8 with elder Arthur Fullerton leading, “Westminster Dreams a New Future”. These conversations are the result of a session concern for communication within the congregation and between the boards of the church.

Arthur Fullerton introduced a process known as “Appreciative Inquiry” through which we may seek and find “...images of the possible”. He began by noting the two strengths that resulted from an earlier study; our music ministry and tradition of mission.

For the next 45 minutes Sue Schell was kept busy writing down the suggestions which came from those gathered in the Assembly Hall. Strengths included everything from “kids” to “care giving”, from “hospitality” to “growing membership”, from “breakfast program” to “African partnership.” At the end of the time, Arthur pointed out the need for Westminster to build, not on a base of problems, but of strengths. Future “conversations”, scheduled for March 29, April 26, May 17 and May 31, will seek to do just that by envisioning what we want Westminster to become.

*One “strength” noted is Westminster’s custodial staff. Recently Glenda Bennett suffered a nasty fall and has been recuperating while Joy Tallmadge fills in. Our thanks to Joy and best wishes to Glenda!* ●



# One Great Hour of Sharing



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday we will participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - the largest of the PC(USA)'s Special Offerings. The money collected is roughly split in thirds to benefit three important ministries. Below is a brief description of each program and how they benefit our community.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** • Works within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters

- In 2014, the PDA supported 17 programs in NY and NJ still recovering from 2012 Superstorm Sandy

**Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)** • Takes action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access for entire communities to sufficient and healthy food

- Focus Churches of Albany - \$6,000 in 2014
- Hunger Action of NYS - \$8,000 in 2014

**Self-Development of People (SDOP)** • Partners with people and communities, leveraging development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice

- 11 Northeast partners were funded in 2014
- In the recent past, Albany's A Village received a grant. They are hoping to receive an additional grant from the SDOP

Please consider a generous donation to this important offering. The gifts make a difference both close and afar. The offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 29th or you can make a donation online <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs> or text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10.

Thank you!

# CROP Walk 2015

## 2015 ALBANY CROP WALK

End hunger one step at a time! The 2015 Albany CROP Walk is on Sunday May 3rd, starting and finishing at First Lutheran Church, 646 State Street in Albany.

Registration is at 12:30 pm at First Lutheran with the walk beginning at 1:30 pm. Participants who raise at least \$35 will receive a CROP Walk 2015 T-shirt.

Get involved by sponsoring a walker, collecting donations and/or walking a one-mile or 3-mile route.

Call or email Diane Bossung at 475-0169 or [dbossung@verizon.net](mailto:dbossung@verizon.net) for more information or to get your registration packet. Please support this worthy Capital Area Council of Churches and Church World Service event to end hunger and support development programs around the world. A full 25% of funds raised remain in the Capital District.

Checks can be made out to CWS/CROP and cash is welcome! Donations can also be made online at [www.cropwalkonline.org](http://www.cropwalkonline.org) Click on New York State, Albany CROP Hunger Walk, Donate, Support a Team, and donate to our team: **Westminster Outreach Walkers** or to **Individual Walkers** of your choice.

Please note that the Westminster Mission committee will match \$.50 on each dollar raised by Westminster! ●



## SCHUYLER INN EVENT

Westminster and its community partners will host their next social event on Sunday, April 26, at 3 pm ●

# MARCH into MAY CALENDAR

## EASTER 2015

### **PALM SUNDAY March 29**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:30 am Second Hour  
1:00 pm Prayer Meeting  
7:00 pm Youth Group

### **April 1**

12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study

**2**

7:30 pm **MAUNDY THURSDAY** Service

**3**

7:30 pm **GOOD FRIDAY** Service

### **EASTER SUNDAY April 5**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 - 11:45 am  
Children's Easter Experience

**8**

7:00 pm Christian Life and Learning

**9**

5:30 pm Kerygma  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **SUNDAY April 12**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:30 am Second Hour  
1:00 pm Prayer Meeting  
7:00 pm Youth Group

**14**

7:00 pm Session

**16**

5:30 pm Kerygma  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **SUNDAY April 19**

10:00 am Worship  
11:45 am Congregational Brunch

**21**

7:00 pm Trustees  
7:00 pm Deacons

**23**

5:30 pm Kerygma  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **SUNDAY April 26**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:30 am Second Hour  
1:00 pm Prayer Meeting  
3:00 pm Schuyler Inn Event  
7:00 pm Youth Group

**30**

5:30 pm Kerygma  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**May 1**

7:30 pm Dr. Ball Organ Concert

### **SUNDAY May 3**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:30 am Second Hour

**6**

7:00 pm Christian Life and Learning

**7**

5:30 pm Kerygma  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal



## Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

### CHURCH OFFICE- Hours

9 am- 4 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

**Office Administrator:** Kristen L. Southworth

**Church School Assistant Coordinator:** Belinda Quaye

**Sextons:** Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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Send submissions to: [westminsternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternewsletter@gmail.com)