

Lent 2013

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THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church

• 262 State Street • Albany • New York • www.wpcalbany.org

*“Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.”*

The last stanza of Isaac Watts’ hymn, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”, provides our theme for the season of Lent. The love of God is most clearly revealed in the love Jesus shows to his disciples, and to everyone he meets along the way of his life’s journey. Lent is a time to reflect on the wonder of the self-giving love Jesus enacts as he travels to Jerusalem and to the cross awaiting him at Calvary.

Lent is also a time of discipline, introspection and self-examination as we who seek to follow in the way of Jesus prepare for a new commandment. At the Last Supper, Jesus commands his disciples to love one another: “As I have loved you, love one another.” God’s amazing self-giving love for us demands that we respond with a devotion that mirrors divine love; a devotion that requires our souls, our lives, our all.

I invite you to join the Westminster community in our Lenten walk •

- Pastor Jim Reisner

PASTORAL *Reflections*

By Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

Even though it's not my cup of tea, I understand why some people of faith are drawn to religious expressions that are absolutist, where right and wrong are clearly spelled out. Sometimes I, too, long for life to have an instruction book, for someone to tell me which direction to go, how to live faithfully.

As a new parent, I feel the yearning for certainty even more acutely. Some days when there is a new challenge to overcome, I would love for some guru to tell me what to do in order to get through the day. I am not alone. There is a multi-million dollar industry that thrives on new parents who want to be told what to do: books on different ways to approach everything from feeding to sleeping, discipline to diapers. I know because I've read them.

The parenting section of the bookstore feels very similar to the weight loss or the self-help sections, all making a lot of money off people who are looking for someone to help them.

Some would argue Christianity fits in this list. After all, doesn't salvation come from above to save broken humanity who cannot save themselves? Truly, this would be an oversimplification of our belief on salvation. First of all, Jesus was not outside of humanity since he was fully divine and fully human. Also, Jesus teaches that there is tremendous potential already welling up among people.

Once Jesus was asked when the Kingdom of God would come. He answered that it is not the kind of thing you can point to (or write a book about) but that "the kingdom of God is among you." (Luke 17:21) In other words, the Kingdom of God is not something we can find if we follow Seven Easy Steps or if we have someone there to tell us what to do. Jesus himself said that the kingdom is not something top-down that is completely different from what we already experience. No, the kingdom is here already and it is among us, begging to

... the kingdom of God is among you.

be noticed.

As a parent, I still read some books. But I have also learned not to rely too heavily on the latest greatest school of thought. People have been parents since the dawn of time, and I can trust my own wisdom and instincts.

This Lent, I hope that you get a chance to see the kingdom around you. The tradition of spiritual practices, such as giving something up for Lent, is designed to give us new eyes to see our life for what it is and to see God's blessings all around us. ●

MUSIC

AT

Westminster

By Alfred Fedak

BACH AT WPC: FEBRUARY 16

On Saturday evening, February 16, the Capitol Chamber Artists will perform, in our church's sanctuary, a concert called "Old Bach and the Aristocracy." The program, performed on period instruments, will include various works by Johann Sebastian Bach, including the trio sonata from Bach's Musical Offering, as well as his final composition, the organ prelude called "Before Thy Throne, O Lord, I Stand." Also on the program will be other contemporaneous works by Buxtehude, Pissendel, and King Frederick the Great of Prussia. The 8:00 PM concert will be preceded by a 7:00 PM recital, and refreshments will be served during the concert's intermission. Church members will be admitted free of charge--come and enjoy!

CONCERT BY THE MONDAY MUSICAL CLUB: ST. PATRICK'S DAY

On Sunday, March 17, at 3:00 PM, the Monday Musical Club will hold its annual spring concert at our church. Founded in 1904, the club is one of Albany's oldest musical organizations; it boasts a membership of singers and instrumentalists as well as a women's chorus. The group also awards scholarships to promising local music students to aid them in their continuing studies. The club's concert at WPC will feature a variety of performances, including solos by this year's scholarship winners. All are invited.

GOOD FRIDAY: THE SEVEN LAST WORDS

This year, Westminster's Good Friday service will take a slightly different form from that of past years. The service will consist of a series of musical meditations on Jesus's Seven Last Words, performed by various guest artists. The Musicians of Ma'alwyck string quartet will play several excerpts from Joseph Haydn's instrumental meditations, a quintet of singers will perform Heinrich Schütz's setting of the actual biblical texts, and Al Fedak will play Alan Ridout's organ meditations on these same passages. The service will also include a parallel display of visual art: during the music, a slideshow of images depicting Christ's passion will be projected. The passion and death of Jesus has inspired some of the world's most powerful art and music: we invite you to come and share in this experience on Good Friday, March 29, at 7:30 PM ●



MISSION & MINISTRIES & MUSIC UPDATE

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

The youth are planning a mission trip July 8-11 to areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. Support your youth as they go out into the world to serve others.

High School Senior Maggie Gallagher has put together an opportunity for the youth to volunteer in our community - at the Ronald McDonald House for their day of service. Saturday, March 16th we will meet at noon at the Fountain Restaurant on New Scotland Ave for lunch. Then we will go to the Ronald McDonald House for their afternoon of volunteering which begins at 1 pm. Let's make a difference in our local community.

ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS IN WASHINGTON DC

Friday, April 5 - Monday, April 8, 2013

"Food Justice for a Healthy World"

In a world that produces enough food for everyone, EAD will explore the injustices in global food systems that leave one billion people hungry. At God's Table, all are invited and fed, and the poorest in our midst are given a special place.

Inspiring speakers will reflect on the biblical image of God's great banquet table and offer a faith-based vision for fair and humane food policies and practices, all culminating with Monday's Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.

April 5-8, 2013 will be a time to raise faith voices in support of creating more just and sustainable food systems. Scholarships are available!

Contact FOCUS Churches (518) 443-0460

CHILDREN'S CHORUS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD MARCH 2

Four area children's choirs will gather at WPC on Saturday, March 2 for a day-long festival. Choristers from Glens Falls Children's Chorus, Saratoga Children's Chorus, Troy Children's Chorus and Westminster's own Minster Musick Makers will be directed by guest director Elizabeth Nuñez, assistant conductor of the Young People's Chorus of New York City.

Our singers will be joining about 80 other third thru eighth graders and will have a great time meeting new friends and performing some fun songs. The day culminates in a 3:00 pm concert, which is free and open to the public. So put the date on your calendars and come and listen to an hour of beautiful singing! -Sue Fedak ●

CRTC

Courses of Interest

CAPITAL REGION THEOLOGICAL CENTER COURSES

CRTC: ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Do you know about CRTC scholarships? Contact us for details!

Nine Paths Lead to Home: An Enneagram and Spiritual Growth Workshop, Radha Lion, Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 am - 3 pm, Union Presbyterian Church, This 9-point system explores your personality type through small group conversation, personal reflection and art; see how it can help you and others on the journey of personal/ spiritual growth. \$75 by Jan. 23: \$90 thereafter. Reg. deadline: Feb. 6.

Finding Your Calcutta, Gregg Barrett, Mar. 16, 10am-4pm. How do we discover where it is God calls us to serve? Journalist Greg Barrett continues the conversation that Shane Claiborne started last June, bringing us the real-life story of the Good Samaritan. Hear the gospel come alive with stories from your own neighborhood. A day of inspiration and surprise. \$60 by Feb. 15; \$75 thereafter. \$10 for age 25 and under; Reg. Deadline: Feb. 28

Social Media for Churches: The Why & How, Rev. Dr. Tim Coombs & Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost, Apr. 12, 9am-3pm, Liverpool United Methodist, Apr.13, 9am-3pm; Capital Region location tbd. Does social media ever seem like a different world? Why does the church need Facebook, Pinterest, texting and Twitter to communicate in today's digital age? Beginner and advanced level learning in this workshop on the how and why. \$75 by Mar. 15: \$90 thereafter. Reg. deadline: Mar. 27. Register online at www.crtc.org or by phone at 518-462-2470 •



Thanks to all who helped the Westminster youth raise \$575 for the Emergency Overflow Shelter!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Eating & Healing

FEBRUARY & MARCH

Happy BIRTHDAY

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Celebrate Fat Tuesday and support the youth in their mission trip for Hurricane Sandy Relief. Come to the Assembly Room on Tuesday, February 12 from 5:30 - 7 pm. Cost: \$8 for adults and kids over 12, \$5 for children 5 - 12 yrs. old, under 5 - free. Laissez les bon temps rouler! •

CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH

This year's congregational brunch, one of Westminster's oldest and most popular traditions, will be held on Sunday, April 14, in the Assembly Room directly following the morning worship service. We encourage all to plan to attend this most popular event •

HEALING SERVICE

Sunday morning worship on April 28th will be a time of wholeness and healing. Look for more information in the coming months •

EASTER FLOWERS

Contributions for Easter are being accepted to help pay for the Lenten Banners, palms, and Easter flowers. Please send your donations to the church office along with the name or names of those for whom the money is given. Thank you •

Celebrating the following birthdays in February:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| • Matt Brown | Feb 1 | • Lisa Dodman | Feb 14 |
| • Leif Hartmark | Feb 6 | • Margaret Randall | Feb 17 |
| • Taylor J. | Feb 7 | • Joan Lewis | Feb 21 |
| • Alexandra H. | Feb 9 | • Alexandra Frye | Feb 23 |
| • Michael Asamoah | Feb 13 | • Kyle Bossung | Feb 24 |

Celebrating the following birthdays in March:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| • Peter Fedak | March 9 | • Anna W. | March 21 |
| • Robert Bojdak | March 10 | • Lawrie Lierheimer | March 24 |
| • Frances W. Rosenau | March 11 | • Nancy McClumpa Idland | March 28 |
| • Elizabeth McMillan | March 19 | • Julie Mader | March 31 |
| • Larissa Filipp | March 21 | | |

Sorry if we missed your birthday. Please send your birth date into the church office so we may have it on record •

MISSION & MINISTRIES UPDATE



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We will be receiving and dedicating the One Great of Sharing Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday, March 24th. The offering supports disaster relief, hunger programs and the Self Development of People Fund (SDOP). Within the past two years, SDOP has granted over \$30,000 to the work of AVillage, Inc., in Albany's South End. We, at Westminster, are partners with AVillage and are thrilled at the support they have received from the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

In the weeks ahead we will be promoting One Great Hour of Sharing through mailings, bulletin inserts, and Moments for Mission. Please take time to read about all the good that this offering accomplishes, and then consider a generous donation.

Thank you for all your support of the Presbyterian Church USA and Westminster!

AFRICAN SPRING DINNER

to Benefit mission projects in Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and East Africa
Saturday, March 23, 5 to 8:30 pm; Dinner at 6 pm

Speaker: State Senator Neil D. Breslin

Displays of West African Art, Photos and Literature

Activities for Children, starting at 5 p.m.

Free Pot-Luck Dinner (Authentic African Food and American)

For Honorary Committee members, there is a pre-dinner silent auction for four Planet Fitness annual memberships. To participate, write "Planet Fitness Auction" on your check. The winners will be the four Honorary Committee members who make the largest donations by March 15. Prizes will be mailed to winners on March 18.

TRIP TO GHANA

Come this summer, a mission team will be setting out for two weeks in Ghana.

We will be visiting Greenwich Meridian and Redemption Presbyterian Churches in the city of Tema with the purpose of building a church partnership with both congregations. Along with seven other missionaries, I am planning on going on the trip this summer, and I invite Westminster members to consider joining the team.

We have room for more. If you have any questions about the trip, please come and see me. -Pastor Jim Reisner

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS SUPPER & PROGRAM

*Always
Reforming*

One of the rallying cries of the Protestant Reformation was *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda!* In English, “the church reformed, always reforming.” The message in the motto is that our faith, our thoughts, and our institutions are not static or fixed in time. The life of faith is forever on the move.

For our Wednesday night gathering in Lent, we have invited our resident Teaching Elders to share where they are currently growing in their spiritual lives. What interests them most? What are they reading? How are their minds changing?

Each Wednesday evening a light supper will be served at 6:15 pm; the program will begin 7:00 pm; the night will close with a brief Evening Prayer liturgy.

The schedule for mid-week in Lent:

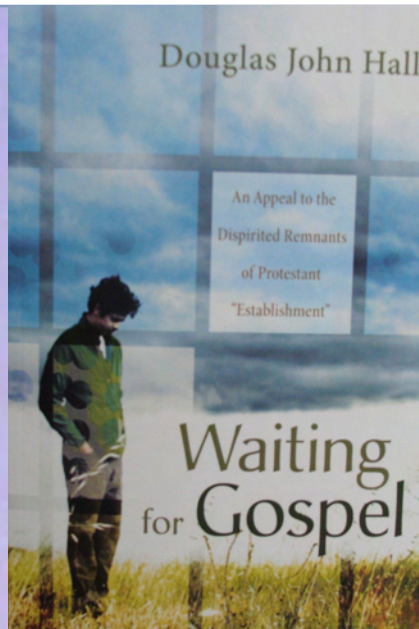
- Tue., Feb. 12: **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** 5:30 pm
- Wed., Feb. 13: **Ash Wednesday Worship** 7:30 pm
Pastor Reisner preaching: Psalm 51:17 *A Broken Spirit*
- Wed., Feb. 20: *The Ministry of Kenneth Welles* 6:15 pm
Led by: David McMillan
- Wed., Feb. 27: *Lincoln’s God and American Civil Religion* 6:15 pm
Led by Jim Reisner
- Wed., Mar. 6: *Bread for the Journey* 6:15 pm
Led by Frances W. Rosenau
- Wed., Mar. 13: 6:15 pm
Why did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?
Led by Paul Randall
- Wed., Mar. 20: 6:15 pm
Theology from the Besieged: (some of) what I learned in the West Bank
Led by Alexandra Lusak
- Thurs., Mar. 28: **Maundy Thursday Service with Communion** 7:30pm
Pastor Reisner preaching: Psalm 116 *Precious in the Sight of the Lord*
- Fri., Mar. 29: **Good Friday with the Musicians of Ma’alwyck** 7:30 pm



LENT

at

Westminster



SECOND HOUR SERIES

A study of Douglas John Hall's *Waiting for Gospel*

Each Sunday will highlight one of a series of essays written as an appeal to the dispirited remnants of the Protestant establishment.

Those interested in reading the book for themselves may order a copy through the church office or by contacting Pastors Reisner and Rosenau directly •

Lenten Preaching Series and Second Hours:

LOVE SO AMAZING ...

February 17 Lent 1

Matthew 16 "The Turning Point"

2nd Hour: Waiting for Gospel: The Mystery of the Gospel

...SO DIVINE...

February 24 Lent 2

John 2:13-22 "Divine Zeal"

2nd Hour: Waiting for Gospel: Who Can Say It as It Is?

...DEMANDS MY LIFE,..

March 3 Lent 3

John 3:30 "He must increase, I must decrease"

2nd Hour: Waiting for Gospel: What are People for?
Stewardship as Human Vocation

...MY SOUL...

March 10 Lent 4

Matthew 18:15-22 "Forbearance and Forgiveness"

2nd Hour: Waiting for Gospel: The Theology of the Cross

...MY ALL

March 17 Lent 5

John 8:2-11 "Glass Houses"

2nd Hour: Waiting for Gospel: Christianity and Empire

March 24 Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40 "Parade of Coats and Stones"

2nd Hour: Waiting for Gospel: A Latter-Day Kierkegaardian
Attends a Megachurch

FEBRUARY & MARCH

Church Calendar

2013

FEBRUARY

10 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Bell Choir
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
7:00 pm Youth Group

12 SHROVE TUESDAY

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
5:30 pm Pancake Supper
7:00 pm Session

13 ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:30 pm Service

14

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

16

7:00 pm Capitol Chamber Artists

17 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
11:30 am Young Adult Brunch

18

Office Closed

19

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:00 pm Trustees
7:00 pm Deacons

20

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:15 pm Lenten Supper & Program

21

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

24 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Bell Choir
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
7:00 pm Youth Group

26

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

27

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:15 pm Lenten Supper & Program

28

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

MARCH

2

8:30 am Children's Chorus Festival

3 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Bell Choir
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School

5

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

6

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:15 pm Lenten Supper & Program
8:00 pm CLL

7

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY 10

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Bell Choir
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
7:00 pm Youth Group

12

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:00 pm Session

13

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:15 pm Lenten Supper & Program

14

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

16

12:00pm Youth Volunteer
at Ronald McDonald House

17 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Bell Choir
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
3:00 pm Monday Musical
Club Concert

19

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:00 pm Trustees
7:00 pm Deacons

20

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:15 pm Lenten Supper & Program

21

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

23

5:00 pm Spring African Dinner

24 PALM SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
7:00 pm Youth Group

26

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

27

7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast

28 MAUNDY THURSDAY

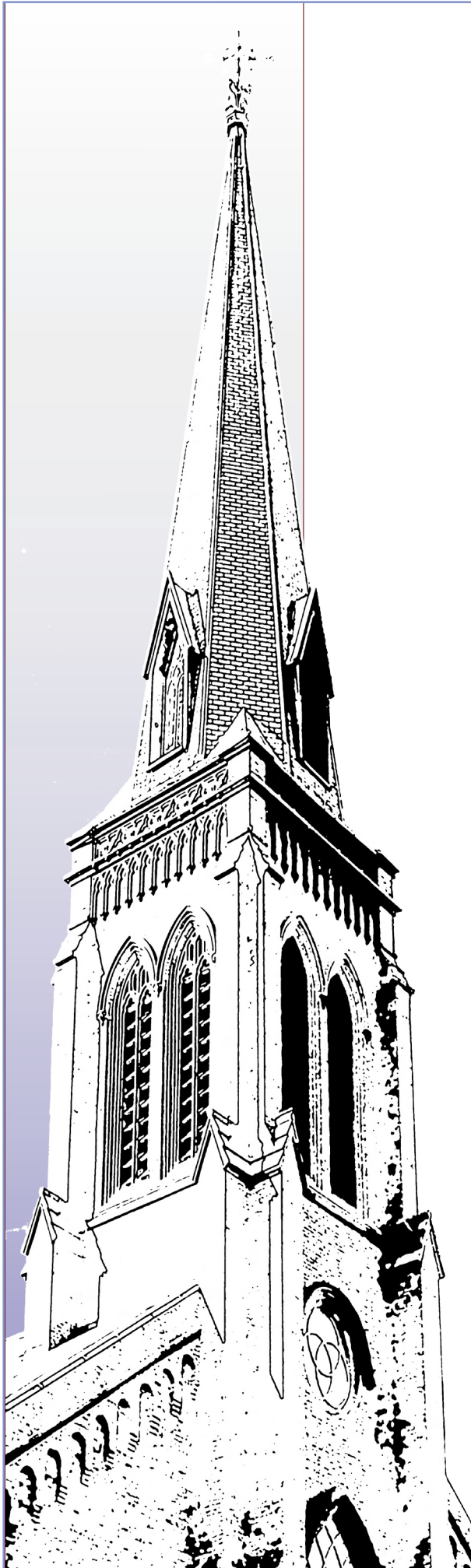
7:00 am FOCUS Breakfast
7:30 pm Worship

29 GOOD FRIDAY

Office Closed
7:30 pm Worship:
The Seven Last Words

31 EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship



Westminster Presbyterian Church

CHURCH OFFICE- 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: Andrea Joy Holroyd

Administrative Secretary: Nancy J. Sokil

Sextons: Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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Send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com