



THE
WESTMINSTER
MESSENGER

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

May
2014

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Holy Boldness

“Now when [the authorities] saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.” Acts 4:13

Easter transformed the disciples from timid followers who abandoned their teacher into bold proclaimers of the Gospel even in the face of imprisonment. Easter conquers death, and “perfect love casts out fear.”

Let us also exhibit holy boldness as we live out our Easter faith.

In May and June we enter the seasons of Eastertide and Pentecost. I welcome you to read further and come join our Westminster faith community as we express our faith in Jesus Christ on this side of Easter •

- Pastor Jim Reisner

PASTORAL Reflections

By Pastor James Reisner

Here's the Church, Here's the Steeple...

My favorite poem about a steeple was written by Marianne Moore who incidently was a member of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn. She writes of a small coastal town where a steeplejack is working on a steeple and has placed a danger sign in front of the church. She plays with that image.

*The church portico has four fluted
columns, each a single piece of stone, made
modester by white-wash. This would be a fit haven for
waifs, children, animals, prisoners,
and presidents who have repaid
sin-driven senators by not thinking about them.*

She concludes the poem with these words:

*It could not be dangerous to be living
in a town like this, of simple people,
who have a steeple-jack placing danger signs by the church
while he is gilding the solid-
pointed star, which on a steeple
stands for hope.*

Hope can be a dangerous thing, can't it? What happens to one person or to an entire people when hope springs forth? Cultural revolutions and personal transformations are built upon hope.

Taking God seriously can also lead to danger. A steeple may be a warning to be careful in the ways we invoke God's name and ask for God's presence.

The Westminster board of trustees has initiated work on our church steeple, so now we will see warning signs out in front of the church and traffic cones in the parking lot. Our old steeple needs some work, and we are dedicating substantial funds for a much-needed renovation. Our elders and trustees will be considering how this renovation will affect our church budget and how we will pay for the work to be done. The boards will be sharing with you soon a plan for going forward.

In the meantime, we will have "a steeplejack placing danger signs by the church" below a steeple that stands for hope ●

ANNUAL PICNIC

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Save the Date!

Westminster's annual picnic is Sunday, June 15th after worship. State Street will be closed for a WPC block party. We'll fire up the grills for a great picnic with activities for all ages. Look for more information in the weekly bulletin and opportunities to sign up to bring a dish or volunteer. Mark your calendars! ●

WELCOME ALYSSA

We welcome Alyssa Pettit as our Social Media Intern for the summer. Alyssa will be working with Westminster, Albany Presbytery, and the Capital Region Theological Center for the summer. She is a rising senior in the Graphic Design Program at Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, Mass. You will see her work on Social Media this summer as she helps us develop our outreach to new audiences.

Welcome Alyssa!



**ENDING
HUNGER
ONE STEP
AT A TIME
CROP HUNGER WALK**



Westminster's W.O.W. group is walking Sunday, May 4th at the annual CROP Walk. Whether you are a Golden Miler or walk the entire distance your contributions help feed those in need.

Starting Location:
First Lutheran Church
181 Western Ave, Albany
Contact: Kitt Jackson- 518-462-5450
Registration: 12:30 pm
Opening Ceremony: 1:15 pm
Walk: 1:30 pm

SUMMER CAMP Opportunities

BY: Pastor Frances Rosenau

SUMMER CAMP

Now is the time to sign up for summer camp. There are many camps with fantastic programming. Two of our favorites are below: Holmes and Fowler. Both offer weeklong overnight summer camps in beautiful, forested campsites.

Holmes Presbyterian Camp in Putnam County, NY

“Our summer program develops self-esteem and self-confidence by encouraging each camper to:

- Engage in Bible study and verbally demonstrate an understanding of Christian community.
- Demonstrate respect for self, authority and the rights and property of others.
- Develop responsibility through group living tasks.
- Form an interest in exploring and enjoying the natural environment.
- Express creativity through crafts, problem solving, worship and personal interactions.”

For more information:

<http://holmescamp.org/summer-camps-day-camp/>

Camp Fowler in Speculator, NY

“Camp Fowler is a non-profit Christian children’s camp that practices a worldly spirituality. In this we mean that Fowler seeks to live into its mission of being a place of Christian hospitality where all are called to live:

- More intentionally in community,
- More graciously in simplicity,
- More consciously as caregivers to creation.”

For more information:

<http://www.campfowler.org/summer-camp>

We will do everything we can to make sure all campers can go to camp. There are camperships available through the camps themselves, the presbytery, and Westminster. Please notify Pastor Frances for more information on how to apply for these programs ●

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH GROUP

Join us for youth group Sunday night 7-8:30 pm on May 11th and June 8th

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

What are those crazy youth and children up to? They are talking non-sense and it's only 10 in the morning! And what are those firey things on their heads? Is it complete and utter chaos? No!

It's Church School Sunday on Pentecost June 8th!

Worship will be a celebration of all things children and youth. The Minster Musik Makers will sing, the children and youth will lead worship, all of the teachers and leaders for all of our grades will be recognized. The Spirit is alive and well in our Church School!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our confirmation class has been going strong this year. We have seven confirmands - all boys - who have been learning, praying, and asking questions all through the year. Now they are writing their own personal statements of faith. Please keep them in your prayers in the weeks to come as they articulate what it means to be a part of God's community - the Church!



MUSIC AT WESTMINSTER

BY: Alfred Fedak

MUSIC NEWS

CAPITOL CHAMBER ARTISTS

On Saturday, May 24, the Capitol Chamber Artists will close their 2013-2014 concert season with a performance at Westminster Church. The full concert which starts at 8:00 PM will be preceded by a less formal recital at 7:00 o'clock. As always, admission is free for members and friends of Westminster, and refreshments will be served at the intermission midway through the 8:00 PM concert. That evening's performers will include Mary Lou Saetta, violin; André O'Neil, cello; Aniko Szokody, piano and Al Fedak, harpsichord and organ •

ATTENTION, ORGAN-MUSIC LOVERS!

Thanks to a recent anonymous gift, our church library's collection of organ recordings has doubled in size. More than 60 organ CDs, many of them brand-new and still unopened, were donated to the church and are now on display in our library and available for borrowing. This new batch of CDs includes recordings of great organs and organists from the around the world. There are even some classic E. Power Biggs recordings which first appeared as LPs in the 1960s and were later re-mastered and re-released as CDs. So next time you're in the library, check out the CDs—and check out a CD •

AFRICAN SPRING DINNER for HOPE Mission School

LIBERIA MISSION- RAISING HOPE

PRIVATE DONATIONS RAISE \$6,250 FOR LIBERIAN SCHOOL

There was a \$5,000 goal set for the March 22 African Spring Dinner to provide textbooks, training workshops, additional scholarships for girls, and emerging needs at the Hope Mission School, located in Bernard Farm, Liberia, West Africa. As of April 21, Westminster members and friends had raised \$6,250.

Hope Mission School Leaders say that electricity is their emerging need. Our Church's Hope Mission School Committee is now looking at how to use solar energy to light the four new classrooms we built in 2013 to replace dilapidated mud block buildings.

Since 2007, WPC has played a major role in raising the living standards and hopes of the impoverished residents of this urban community on the outskirts of Liberia's capital city, Monrovia, bringing clean water, sanitary toilet facilities, and four sturdy new classrooms •



CHURCH COMMUNITY

HUNGER BANQUET



HUNGER BANQUET

From the Hunger Banquet where the distribution of food was intended to mirror the distribution of food throughout the world.

(Maxine and Lois were the only two at the wealthy table where they got waited on)



“People
will come from
east and west and
north and south, and
will take their places
at the feast in the
kingdom of God”

Luke 13:29

ADULT EDUCATION & YOUTH MISSION

KERYGMA CLASS

Kerygma Class resumed at the church, second floor, on Thursday March 24 at 5:30. Class members should read Discovery #8, "The Kings," including all assigned Biblical passages.

ENVELOPES FOR YOUTH MISSION

Envelopes for Youth Mission! Our WPC Youth Group is bound for the Pittsburgh Project Service Camp this summer. We hope you can help send the group on their way! Come visit the fundraising board on display in the Assembly Room and see how easy it is to participate. There are envelopes labeled with amounts from \$1 - \$100 for you to take and fill with your contribution. Pick your age, pick a number you like, join with a friend and fill one of the envelopes with a higher dollar amount...heck, you can fill more than one envelope if you feel inspired by the commitment of our youth to mission work. Please return the envelope with your contribution to Pastor Frances or to the Church office. If you write check, please note "Youth Mission" in the memo line. Thank you! ●



SUNDAY WORSHIP

MAY & JUNE

May 4 *Easter 3* *Communion*
Luke 24:13-35 “The Emmaus Road” Pastor Reisner
2nd Hour: The Art of Listening, led by Tony Mason & Paul Randall

May 11 *Easter 4* *Marigold Sunday*
John 10 “The Good Shepherd” Pastor Reisner
2nd Hour: Orientation to Westminster, led by Pastor Reisner, open to all

May 18 *Easter 5* *Kate Kotfila, Pastor*
I Peter 2:2-10 United Presbyterian Church of Cambridge, New York
(A pulpit exchange with Pastor Reisner)
2nd Hour: A conversation about city and country ministry -Kate Kotfila

May 25 *Easter 6* *Memorial Day Weekend*
Acts 17:22-31 “As Silver Is Tried” Pastor Rosenau
No 2nd Hour

June 1 *Ascension* *Communion (Intinction)*
Acts 1:6-14 “Exit Strategy” Pastor Reisner
2nd Hour: The Ministry of Advocacy

June 8 *Pentecost* *Confirmation and Church School Sunday*
Acts 2:1-21
2nd Hour: Reception for Confirmands

June 15 *Trinity*
Acts 4:1-20 “I Love to Tell the Story” Pastor Rosenau
2nd Hour: Church Picnic

June 22 *Pentecost 3* *Report from General Assembly*
Acts 15 Pastor Reisner
2nd Hour: Discussion about issues of the General Assembly in Detroit

June 29 *Pentecost 4*
Matthew 10:40-42 “Go Random Runner” Pastor Rosenau
2nd Hour: African Summit

**MAY &
JUNE
2014**

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY

1

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

SUNDAY May 4

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
1:30 pm CROP Walk

7

7:00 pm Christian Life and Learning

8

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

SUNDAY May 11

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship Plus
11:15 am Church School
7:00 pm Youth Group

13

7:00 pm Session
7:00 pm Trustees

5

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

SUNDAY May 18

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School

20

7:00 pm Deacons

22

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

SUNDAY May 25

10:00 am Worship

26

Office Closed

28

7:00 pm Mission Committee

29

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

31

4:00 pm Potluck and Playtime

JUNE

SUNDAY June 1

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship Plus
11:15 am Church School
11:30 am 20s and 30s Brunch

4

7:00 pm Christian Life and Learning

5

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

SUNDAY June 8

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

10

7:00 pm Session

12

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

SUNDAY June 15

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Picnic

17

7:00 pm Deacons
7:00 pm Trustees

SUNDAY June 22

10:00 am Worship

25

7:00 pm Mission Committee

SUNDAY June 29

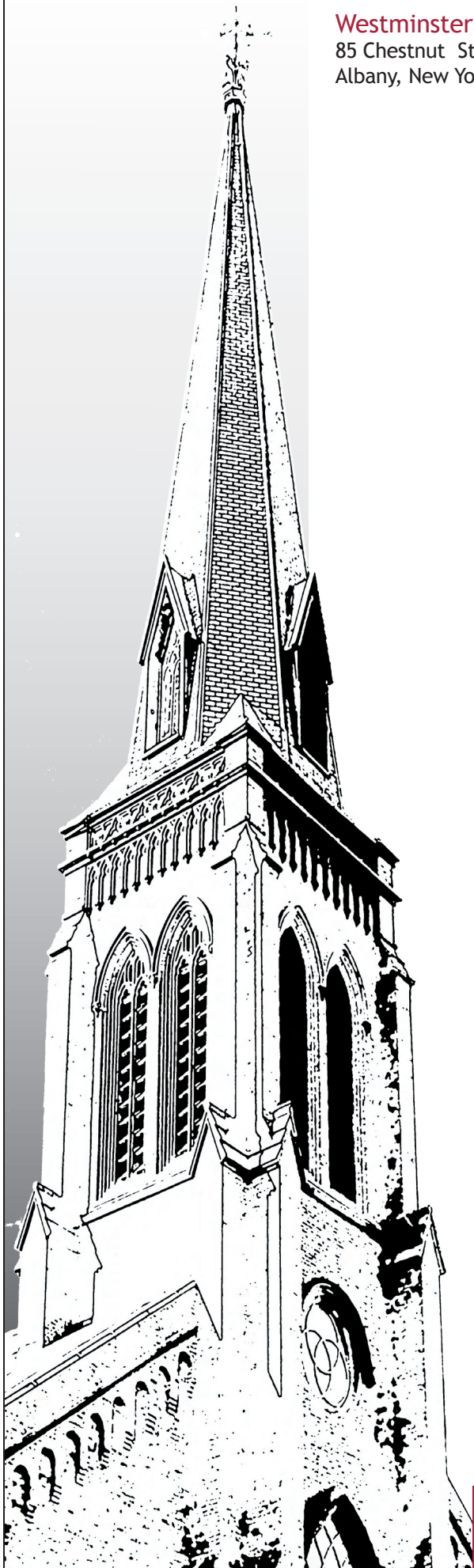
10:00 am Worship

June 29- July 5

Youth Mission Trip to Pittsburgh

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: Mike De Graff

Church School Assistant Coordinator: Belinda Quaye

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Send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com