

The Thread

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jesus and You in the Wilderness by Jim Farrer

Zechariah 3:1ff

Then he showed me the high priest Joshua and the angel of the LORD and Satan (the Hebrew language actually says "the satan," meaning "the accuser"). Standing at his right hand to accuse people, the LORD said to the satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you who are venting your spite on Jerusalem. Is not this man a brand snatched from the fire?"

Now Joshua was wearing filthy clothes. (The word filthy is actually "disgusting excrement.") As he stood before the angel, the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." And to Joshua, he said, "See how I have taken away your guilt, and I will clothe you with festal apparel. Let a clean turban be put on his head. And be clothed in clean garments."

This is the oldest text where Satan is mentioned. "The satan" is like the FBI of today, "digging up dirt and/or the truth and becoming like the prosecuting attorney before God, the judge." The term "the satan" means to put across your path, to take you to a crossroads for a time of decision. He is part of the heavenly administration and is under the authority of God. Although later in Job Chapter 1 and following, "the satan" believes that God should judge more harshly without grace, and Satan rebels.

Luke 4:1... "Jesus was continually led by the Spirit into the wilderness."

Mark 1:12... (After his Jesus' baptism) "the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness." The Greek word is *ekballo* meaning "threw or forced" him into the wilderness.

The wilderness is a major theme in the Bible and also a major theme in a congregation's journey. There is frustration, anticipation, fuzziness, times of fear and times when nothing seems to happen...a lull. It seems that the only thing we can depend on is God. The Judean wilderness, a rugged desolate landscape of six hundred square miles, seems to be all dirt and dust with hardly a blade of grass and water in only certain places.

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When we find ourselves in transitional times, what affects us?

The fog of fatigue where we lose perspective.

The fog of frustration where we lose patience.

The fog of fear where we lose heart.

The fog of growing up in a secular and pagan culture.

The fog of when we are captive to sin and self-centeredness and cannot free ourselves.

The fog from "the satan" and Satan.

I Corinthians 13:12 As St. Paul says, "We see in a mirror dimly."

God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt toward the Promised Land in what should have been a two and a half week walk, but the journey took 40 years. In Exodus 15:22 for three days they had no water. Then they came to the watering hole of Marah which means "bitter." This was perhaps a briny, Epsom salts-like consistency. The people would not drink it as it was. God led Moses to put a branch of a certain tree in the pond, and the bitterness was lessened. The LORD got the people out of Egypt, but here he had to take "the Egypt" out of the people. Scholars conjecture that the irrigation ditches near the Nile had given the Israelites a variety of parasites.

What practices at Westmont Presbyterian Church should come under discernment?

At this crossroad in the life of WPC, what decision(s) would be smart and Holy Spirit led?

The desert in the Old Testament

As Jesus went into the desert he would have been aware of all that the desert had come to signify in the experience of God's people up to that point.

Israel had been forged as a nation by its experience in the 'wilderness': forty years of wandering in the Sinai and Negev Deserts *en route* from Egypt to the Promised Land. This had been the time for receiving God's Law (including the Ten Commandments), a time of testing, preparation and trusting in God's provision (the gift of 'manna' and water from the rocks). Yet it was also the time when the Israelites 'grumbled' against God and which they would later look back on as a period of disobedience to their Redeemer God: 'Today, if you hear his voice', the Psalmist later exhorted them, 'do not harden your hearts as you did... in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did... They are

'They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the desert?"'

Psalm 78:19



The Lord's Prayer (St. Matthew 6:9-13)

A possible translation for discussion and further exploration of Jesus' audacious model of prayer

Matthew 6:9 "You must keep on praying in this way:"

Our Father, Exodus 4:22, Psalm 103:13

Who art in the heavens Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 66:1

You must (please) uphold your reputation now! Exodus 3:13-15, Isaiah 29:23, Ezekiel 36:22-23

You must bring about (please) your just rule now! Isaiah 9:2-7, Ezekiel 34:11-16, Daniel 2:44

You must fulfill (please) your will now on earth as it is in heaven! Psalm 135:6, Ezekiel 36:27

You must now give us this day our daily bread/manna! Exodus 16:4, Proverbs 30:8, Isaiah 33:16, Ezekiel 36:29

And you must now forgive/cancel our debts Exodus 32:32, Psalm 25:18, Daniel 9:19, 1 Kings 8:33

as we have already forgiven those who have done wrong to us! Ecclesiasticus 28:2

You must now not lead us into temptation! Psalm 66:10-12, Psalm 141:4

And you must now snatch us away from the jaws of evil and the evil one! Genesis 4:7, Psalm 22:19-21

For you are the rightful ruler! 1 Chronicles 29:10-13, Luke 12:32

And you have the power/dynamite! John 14:12

And you deserve the credit forever! John 17:22, Psalm 57:5

Amen/Let it be so/Yes! 11 Corinthians 1:20

A. "The most notable characteristic of the Lord's Prayer is its Jewishness. Almost every phrase has its parallel in Jewish literature." See Douglas R.A. Hare (former Pittsburgh Seminary professor) in *Matthew* (p. 66)

B. "... the standard English form of the Lord's Prayer scarcely renders justice to the Greek of Matthew," writes Raymond E. Brown in *New Testament Essays*. (p. 280) His chapter on the Lord's Prayer has the most complete notes on the proper grammar.

C. The word usually translated "heaven" is literally "heavens."

D. Jesus' prayer is a "battle cry" of hope against the order of every society and in defiance of the spiritual forces of evil says John Howard Yoder in *Social Themes of the Christian Year*, ed. Dieter T. Hessel. (p. 93)

E. John Dominic Crossan in *The Greatest Prayer* reveals that the three phrases beginning "hallowed" and "kingdom" and "will" in the Greek language are in a rhyming format, "like a deliberate chant." (p. 57)

These three phrases are considered to be divine passives. They are imperatives/commands, but the passive voice is the voice of prayer so we begin in a tentative and reverent approach.

Presbyterian professor at Regent College, Vancouver, Darrell W. Johnson asserts in *Fifty-Seven Words That Change the World*, "It pleases God to be so in entreated, though I, for one, am not yet comfortable with this boldness—I feel I need to insert the word 'please.'" (p. 110)

In the traditional Roman Catholic mass the introduction to saying the Lord's Prayer is "Taught by our Savior's command and formed by the word of God, we dare to say:..."

F. All of the remainder of the verbs are aorist imperatives except for "lead" which is aorist subjunctive, but R.E. Brown says that this verb is the equivalent of the aorist imperatives which surround it. (p. 314) Audaciously, "Jesus teaches us to command God, in the imperative mood when we pray." *Engaging the Powers*, W. Wink (p. 307)

G. The words "snatch us away" are the translation from Karl Barth in his book *Prayer*. (p. 62)

R.E. Brown discloses that the words "deliver us" mean a strong tearing free or wrenching away. (p. 319)

H. The Doxology (for thine is the Kingdom, etc.) was added later which makes it a more complete act of worship. Usually Jewish prayers were concluded by the addition of some form of doxology. See 1 Chronicles 29:11-13, 30.

Translation and notes by Jim Farrer of the Healing Prayer Ministry Network of the Redstone Presbytery (Rev. 2025)

Services and Sermons

- August 02** Holy Communion
- August 09** Pastor Ken Foust preaching;
Pastor Jim Farrer on vacation
- August 16** Holy Spirit on Holy Spurt?
- August 23** What are your Spiritual Gifts?
- August 30** Meek or Weak?
St. Matthew 5:5
- September 06** Lord's Supper / Labor Day
- September 13** 9-11 Remembrance
An Evening Cantata
"The 4 Freedoms" with Orchestra
- September 20** Olde Time Scottish Worship
1590s Presbyterian Style

WILL OUR CHURCH GROW IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

By Jim Farrer

An Answer

Perhaps thousands will be flocking to hear my sermons.

You should know that of the 25 largest Christian denominations, only two are growing. Those are charismatic churches full of members whose lives have been so changed by our Lord that they are eager to invite others.

About 80 plus congregations across denomination lines are plateaued or declining. About 95% of the attention of Baptist and Presbyterian congregations is solely on themselves.

Business as usual is not working.

WPC will get a slight bump in members when the new, installed pastor arrives. But as international church consultant, I know that few seminaries train students in evangelism and in the 80 year-old sociological science of "church growth research ." That began on the mission field when because of limited funds, supervisors decided to discover what methods were fruitful or not.

The Community Outreach team has many good ideas.

"Let your light shine," says Jesus.

WPC should build on its many obvious strengths and has a good future ahead.



From Pastor Jim's Desk

AUGUST 2026

Message to WPC Grads – 2026
July 12, 2026 – Jim Farrer

“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth.” Ecclesiastes 12:1

A. Congratulations on reaching a big benchmark of society. We are proud of you. You have achieved much and will accomplish even more. Seek out some inventories to learn more about yourself.

1. Spiritual gifts – upcoming at WPC in August
2. Myers Briggs type inventory
3. Birth order books

B. Consider continuing as a Presbyterian Christian.

1. Without Presbyterians there would have been no USA. The British had greatly persecuted the Scots and the Scots-Irish, so they were willing to fight the Redcoats. Fifty percent of the soldiers and officers in the American Revolution were Presbyterians.
2. Doing a jumble of the word “Presbyterian” comes out as “best in prayer.” The word “Israel” means “to wrestle with God.” God wants give and take with us.
3. As a Presbyterian, you do not need to handle rattlesnakes.
4. Presbyterians believe that you are “chosen by God before the foundation of the world.” Ephesians 1:4
5. Presbyterians believe that salvation is by God’s gift not by merit or works.

The blessings of an active congregational life: Church is fantastic for you.

Duke University researcher Harold Koenig, MD has overseen the analysis of peer-reviewed journal studies from 1872 to the present on religion and health, most of it concerning Christianity. His summary of the importance of religious commitment in a religious community follows: “In general, (people) cope with stress better, they experience greater well-being because they have more hope. They’re more optimistic, they experience less depression, less anxiety and they commit suicide less often. They don’t drink alcohol as much, they don’t use drugs as much, they don’t smoke cigarettes as much and they have healthier lifestyles. They have stronger immune systems, lower blood pressure, probably better cardiovascular functioning and probably a healthier hormonal environment physiologically ...and they live longer.” (beliefnet.com 5/06) He also concludes: “Lack of religious involvement...is equivalent to 40 years of smoking one pack of cigarettes per day.”

A massive Connecticut Mutual Insurance survey showed that the most important variable in promoting a healthy lifestyle is to be an active member of a church. Various studies have reported that committed church attendance can extend one’s life between three and seven years. In fact, the National Health Interview Survey which followed 21,000 people over an eight-year period demonstrated an eight-year longevity difference if one attends church more than once a week.

Is it smart to live together?

A university student informed her father that she was going to move in with her boyfriend. With a stroke of insight, her dad replied, “Since you have become familiar with doing research in your classes,

Research compiled by the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, indicates: Cohabitation is associated with a 46 percent higher divorce risk." Further, the project found that Cohabiting couples report lower levels of happiness, lower levels of exclusivity, and sexual satisfaction and poorer relations with their parents.... And a three times greater rate of depression than married couples."

Sociologist Linda Waite of the University of Chicago notes that the violence rate for live-ins is almost double that of marrieds. *Leadership* magazine reported that 40 percent of live-in women reveal they had endured a kind of sex they did not want or did not enjoy.

A report compiled by the Marriage and Relationship Education Center, concluded that children of cohabitating parents are nine times more likely to suffer physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

A similar British study related that children living with mom and her boyfriend were 33 times more likely to be abused physically and sexually than children living with both biological parents.

The blessings of an unusual peaceful era

Over a period of seventeen centuries the longest era without a major war involving two or more of the great powers" of that era, lasted for thirty-eight years, nine months, and five days." (From Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo to the start of the Crimean War) "That record was broken on May 15, 1984." (See *It's a Different World* by Lyle E. Schaller, p. 36. Research from *The Wilson Quarterly*, vol. IX, 1985, p. 84-93.)

Jesus and Fear of the Future

Many of the younger generations have fears about the conflicts among peoples, groups and nations in the world and worries about the end time and the end of the world. Many Christians have these anxieties as well.

The first bit of perspective comes from Holy Scripture about eschatology. According to Oxford professor G.B. Caird in his commentary *The Revelation of St. John the Divine* (p.266), "... the word *schaton* (neuter gender) does not occur in the New Testament. John knows only of the *eschatos*, masculine gender), a person who is both the beginning and the end." Caird continues: "The end is not an event but a person." Jesus is the "end One."

In the Book of Revelation the end time battle of Armageddon which occurs in 16:16-17 and 19:19-20 is not a real battle. When Satan's enemy armies prepare to fight the Lord, the battle is over before it is begun. Therefore, the end will not be a bomb or a blast. The end began as a baby in a feed trough in Bethlehem.

I'd Like to Know Questions

with Answers by Jim Farrer

1. Why do some churches say "trespasses" in the Lord's Prayer and we say "debts"?

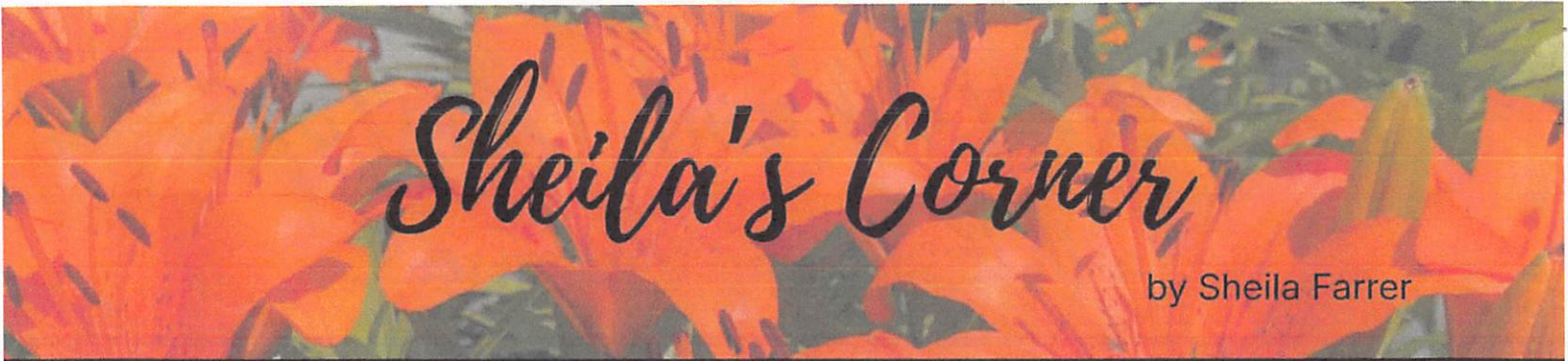
St. Matthew's gospel in Chapter 6 has debts," while St. Luke in Chapter 11 says something like "forgive our sins while we ourselves have already forgiven those of our debtors." The Anglican Book of Common Prayer in 1549 with many revisions followed Tyndale's 1525 translation which used "trespasses." In the late 1960s, an ecumenical group of leaders made the suggestion of using "sins", and Presbyterians in the 1970 Worship Book hymnal first introduced that usage. I believe your church used that particular hymnal. First Presbyterian Church in downtown Johnstown has used "sins" for many years.

2. Who does the pastor answer to?

Ultimately, it better be the living Lord Jesus. In a Presbyterian congregation, the ruling elders and the teaching elder meeting in Session is the governing body. The minister and elders share certain oversight responsibilities. The Book of Order has all of this spelled out. The Minister of Word & Sacrament is the moderator of Session. The Scottish definition of a moderator: A mechanical contrivance to regulate the flow of gas. In general, the Session's responsibility ends at the foot of the pulpit.

3. Would Max Lucado's DVDs be a good teaching tool?

Max Lucado is a popular preacher and the author of more than 100 books. He is a pastor in the fairly conservative Church of Christ, an offshoot of the Disciples of Christ denomination. That branch does not use musical instruments to accompany hymns. But Lucado's congregation had so many visitors expecting normal singing that they were permitted to use instruments. I believe Max is faithful to the Bible in most things, although I haven't completed all 100 books!



Sheila's Corner

by Sheila Farrer

A Grammar Lesson with John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 KJV

This verse is beloved by many Christians and is recognizable even to many others who are unfamiliar with the Bible.

Upon a closer look from a grammarian's point of view, the verse is a complex sentence with a tiny, yet very important word – so. According to the Oxford American College Dictionary (2002), the word "so" is an adverb meaning "to such a great extent."

Take a moment and reread the verse inserting that phrase: "For God loved the world 'to such a great extent' that He gave his only begotten Son...."

The word may also be translated from the Greek as "in this manner." Now insert that phrase: "For God so loved the world 'in this manner' that He gave his only begotten Son...."

God's gift of his Son came into the world as a baby in a manger while shepherds worshiped him and later magi would honor him with prophetic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. God revealed his love for the world in the Incarnation. Yet this love would take his Son to the cross on Calvary's hill, the ultimate expression of that love.

Perhaps the following story will draw a helpful analogy to the gift that traveled from Bethlehem to Golgotha . . .

A young man is arrested in a convenience store robbery and taken before the magistrate where he admits to his guilt in the crime and throws himself on the mercy of the judge, explaining that he needs money to buy food and medicine for his sickly child. The judge knows this to be true, but he must uphold the law. He sentences the man to the mandatory sentence for the offense. Frantic, the man contends that in jail he will be unable to provide for his ailing child.

Then the compassionate judge does something extraordinary. He recuses his judicial role and serves the jail sentence for the young man.

Improbable, you say. I agree, but the story illustrates that God's justice cannot be escaped, but out of his great compassion and love, God sent his Son into the world to suffer the consequences of our sins.

Martin Luther, the founder of the Lutheran denomination, called this the **"Marvelous Exchange."**

Session

Stewardship - Please use other envelopes until new printed ones are available. Changing company for 2027.

Buildings & Grounds - 1st row of balcony will be closed. Approved resurfacing of Manse driveway.

Christian Ed - New classroom Bibles are ordered.

Worship & Music - Communion will be by Intinction on August 2. Hymn-sing planned for August 23.

Community Outreach/Membership - New Tagline: FIND FAITH, FELLOWSHIP & PURPOSE HERE!

Koinonia - Donna is pleased with new volunteers and the many suggestions for activities.

Safety - Look for CPR class in the fall.

Centennial - Letter from Sen. Wayne Langerholc added and time capsule closed. Funds to be transferred to Investment Account.

Elisa Ellenberger
Clerk of Session

Next Session Meeting:
SEPTEMBER 15 7 PM

Finance

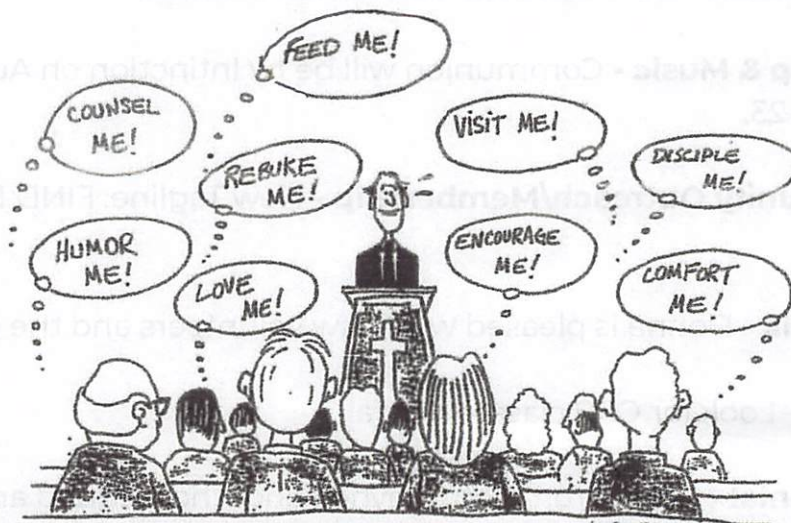
June General Giving	\$20,643
YTD General Giving	\$203,956
Last Year	\$185,054
YTD Budget	\$162,000

Pastor Nominating Committee

UPDATE:

1. The Church "resume" has been completed, approved by session and Presbytery and is available to Presby Preachers online.
2. More than 30 pastor "resumes" have been received by the PNC.
3. The "Texas" team is beginning to sift through potential candidates.
4. Our PNC Team is meeting weekly and is asking for your prayers to continue.

Question:
**"What should we
expect of our
next installed
Minister?"**



Notifications

RODNEY EATMAN

Our friend and fellow member, Rodney Eatman, has entered The Church Triumphant. Rodney was Professor of Theater at UPJ for 31 years and also produced and directed plays around the community. He requested no funeral services, but we will hold a musical remembrance later this year in his memory.

THE REV. DR. BILL JACKSON

Our former interim pastor Bill Jackson passed away on January 14, 2026 at age 91. His pastored at included Abington, PA, Canton, OH and Flint, MI. ?????

His interims included Shadyside in Pittsburgh, Sewickly, PA and Highland in Lancaster. He also served as Interim College Chaplain at Westminster College, PA and was Director of the Department of Religion at the Chatauqua Institution in western New York.

Dr. Bill had a wonderful memory and often recited the scripture by heart on Sundays.

Bill was our Interim from April 2013 to October 2013.

"Where Is God Calling You to Serve?"

Joan Rush - Chair, Membership / Growth Committee

EXPLANATION

For Short Spiritual Gifts Inventory

A. GIVING

You contribute material resources, and do God's work with liberality and cheerfulness. You contribute sacrificially, motivate others, and don't shun pressure or publicity. Romans 12:13 – "Share with God's people."

B. ADMINISTRATION

You lead and communicate in such a way that people work harmoniously to reach goals for God's purpose. You enjoy being a leader and can endure adverse reaction to get the job done. You enjoy seeing tasks complete; are able to set guidelines, schedules, and policies; and can delegate to get the work done. Romans 12:14 – "Bless those who persecute you."

C. TEACHING

You communicate the truth with obvious results. You believe your gift is foundational and work systematically and with accuracy. Romans 12:11 – "Keep spiritual fervor."

D. EXHORTATION

You minister by giving comfort, consolation, and encouragement so people feel helped and healed. Problems are only challenges, and you are drawn to those seeking spiritual growth. You can share personal failures to prompt others to talk. Learning and teaching practical information is your desire. Romans 12:12 – "Joyful, patient and faithful."

E. MERCY

You feel compassion for those who are suffering and perform deeds to reflect God's love. You are naturally drawn to hurting people, sensitive, giving, loving and desire healing. Romans 12:15-16 – "Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with mourners, live in harmony."

F. PROPHECY

The goal of those who have the gift of prophecy is to bring persons face to face with God. You discern, reveal motives and actions, have strong convictions and a need to express them. Impulsive, direct, and persuasive, you normally are a strong person. Romans 12:9 – "Love must be sincere, hate evil, cling to good."

G. SERVING

You identify and meet the needs of others using personal as well as other resources. You see needs and enjoy responding. You work best short-term and alone (do it now and quickly). You possess endurance and stamina and have a tendency to do too much. Romans 12:10 – "Be devoted, honor one another."

(Used with permission from Easum, Bandy, & Associates, Inc. (www.easumbandy.com)).

THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY . . .

. . . is encouraging those connected to WPC to discover or rediscover some of their spiritual gifts. Perhaps the last time WPC did this was when Bill Meyer was our interim 20 years ago. That survey was quite complete but was quite long with 135 questions.

This survey leaves out the more "exotic" gifts such as "speaking in tongues."

When your gift chart is revealed, you yourself may be surprised, but others who know you may say: "Well, of course, everyone knows that is your strength!"

This topic can be a bit confusing, but it is not complicated. It can help to come to the brief Sunday morning event after worship on August 23.

Where Is God Calling You to Serve?

Name: _____

Date: _____

God has given each of us unique gifts, talents, and passions to share in the life and ministry of the church. After completing the Spiritual Gifts Inventory, we invite you to prayerfully consider where God may be calling you to serve. Please review the opportunities below and check any area or team where you feel led to use your gifts, grow in faith, and make a meaningful difference at WPC.

Please check any areas where you feel called to serve:

- ☐ Greeter
- ☐ Fellowship Hour Team
- ☐ Ambassador for WPC (bring one or more new people to church this year)
- ☐ Prayer Warrior
- ☐ Pre-school Care Team
- ☐ Children's Chat Team
- ☐ Children's Sunday School Team
- ☐ Vacation Bible School (VBS) Team
- ☐ Youth Group Events Team
- ☐ Deacon
- ☐ Elder
- ☐ Choir
- ☐ Security Team
- ☐ Mission Team
- ☐ Special Needs Dance
- ☐ Building & Grounds Team
- ☐ Farmer's Market Team
- ☐ Farmer's Market Booth – to promote WPC
- ☐ Bake Communion Wafers
- ☐ Flower Calendar Scheduler
- ☐ Quilt Ministry Team
- ☐ Social Media Team (Picture - taking, Facebook and Instagram posting.)
- ☐ Small Study Group Leader

Thank you for prayerfully sharing your gifts in service to God and WPC.

Please return this form to the office.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY; Short Form

A method to help you discover your gifts. Check the items which best describe you.

1. ____ I prefer ministering by myself rather than in a group. G
2. ____ People often say I am impulsive and direct. A
3. ____ My financial resources are above average. A
4. ____ I like to counsel people on a short-term basis. D
5. ____ I am a task-oriented person. G
6. ____ I love directing other people's work. B
7. ____ It's natural for me to show kindness to people. E
8. ____ People learn easily from me. C
9. ____ I can be very persuasive. F
10. ____ More than 10 percent of my income goes for Christian causes. A
11. ____ People often follow my advice. D
12. ____ I normally use several books in lesson preparation. C
13. ____ I like to recruit and lead people. B
14. ____ One-on-one relationships are important to me. E
15. ____ I possess a variety of talents and abilities. G
16. ____ I want to measure everything by God's Word. F
17. ____ Material possessions don't mean much to me. A
18. ____ Discouraged people are encouraged by my words. D
19. ____ Being accurate and truthful are important to me. C
20. ____ I love the challenge of accomplishing an organization goal. G
21. ____ Other people's spiritual welfare genuinely concerns me. D
22. ____ I usually make quick decisions. F
23. ____ I look for ways to help the unfortunate and downtrodden. E
24. ____ Criticism doesn't bother me. C
25. ____ I often volunteer my time and talents to worthwhile causes. G
26. ____ I am usually self-confident. B
27. ____ I don't expect repayment for favors I do for others. E
28. ____ I enjoy being responsible for the success of the group. B
29. ____ When a question about truth comes up, I am normally right. F
30. ____ Deadlines challenge me, and I usually meet them on time. B
31. ____ People in pain are comforted by my presence. D

Total your checks: A ____, B ____, C ____, D ____, E ____, F ____, G ____

Recording a 3, 4, or 5 after a letter indicates a Spiritual Gift.

Christian Ed

Youth News

The **Youth Group** will meet on July 15th for our monthly Bible Study Lunch at the church from 12-2 pm. All youth in grade 5th thru 12th are invited and are encouraged to bring a friend. Please let Bri Lohr know if there are any food allergies or sensitivities.

We are two months into our **Summer Bible Reading Challenge**. If you are participating, make sure you meet with Bri Lohr to discuss which book(s) from the Bible you have read so far.



CE Announcements

Attached in this newsletter is our Sunday School registration forms. The purpose of these forms is to be sure all the kids are in the proper class, rosters are correct and parent contact info is current in the event of any issues. Forms will be due to the church office by the end of August.

We are looking for volunteers for different CE activities. If you would like to help teach Sunday School, talk to the kids at Children's Chat, or would be interested in helping with Good News Club, please reach out to Bri Lohr either in person or by emailing blohr@westmontpc.org.

Upcoming Events



August

- 08/09** CE Committee Meeting
- 08/15** Youth Lunch
- 08/16-23** Turn in Sunday School Forms
- 08/21** Return Confirmation Forms

September

- 09/13** Confirmation Breakfast & CE Committee Meeting
- 09/19** Youth Lunch
- 09/20** First day of Sunday School
- 09/27** First Confirmation Class





Graduate Recognition



Olivia Sterling, daughter of Josh Hinson, graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School. She will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Early Education and will also be studying Psychology. She enjoys working with kids and reading. During the school year she helped out in one of the Elementary school classes.

Charlie Maciorowski, son of Steve Maciorowski, graduated from Conemaugh Township High School. He will be taking a year off to work before going to school. Charlie was in CTC for construction and involved in the musical this year.

Mara Glover, daughter of Shannon Glover, graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School. She will be attending the University of Pittsburgh - Main Campus majoring in Biology. She graduated with The Bar of Honor (Over 100% GPA) and as an officer of the National Honor Society. She received the Doris Liebfried Scholarship for excellence in science. Mara was the MVP of the soccer and track teams and also the Senior Female Athlete of the year.

John Allen, son of Greg & Cynthia Allen, graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School. He will be attending Saint Vincent College, majoring in Aviation Management - Advanced Pilot, and playing for the Men's Tennis Team. He was a member of the National Honor Society. He was a part of the golf, swim and tennis teams. John earned the following during his time on the teams: Golf: Lettered 3 out of 4 years played; Swimming: Lettered all four years on the team, 4 year district qualifier, 1 year state qualifier; Tennis: Lettered all four years on the team, Outstanding singles award 2 years, Outstanding doubles award 1 year, District team champion all four years, District doubles 2nd place 2 years, District singles 2nd place 1 year, District Doubles 1st place 1 year.

WPC SUNDAY SCHOOL

STUDENT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Current Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Sunday School Class they will attend:

☐ Elementary (preK-4th) ☐ Youth (5th-12th)

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Gaurdian Name: _____

Relationship to
Child:

☐ Father/Step
Father

☐ Mother/Step
Mother

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Gaurdian Name: _____

Relationship to
Child:

☐ Father/Step
Father

☐ Mother/Step
Mother

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Deacons' Corner

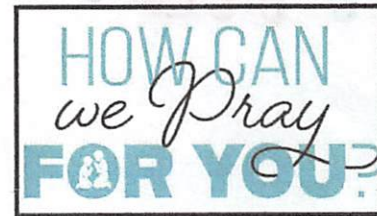
PRAYER BOARD

WPC, Laura & Nate, Tracy, James, Angela, Lyn, Lynn, Cindy H., Mike R., Evan, Chris S., Rodney Eatman, Laurel Eatman, Paul Baribault, Stephen Meck, Dan Kovacs, Sharon Pletcher, Virginia, Ted Nyland, Tina, Jim Darr, Deborah DeGol, John Norris, Jean Livingston, Dave Livingston, Leslie Winters, Sylvester, Vince, Beverly, Michael, Jeanne Strunk, Jasmine Connor, Ted & Carole Corey, Gretyl Lauf, Anne Bradford, Kathy J., Nancy C., Alan Burnosky, Kay, Lynn, Matthew, Rick & Denise Mezyk, Skip & Adelle Picking, The Fleegle Family, Pastor Roland, Mike & Angie Hale, Marian Allen, Cory Locher, Bonnie & Barry's daughter- Robin, Dave and Debbie's daughter- Jenny, Deb Lichtenfels, Gretchen Parseghian, Bill Harris' niece, Linda Thomson, Dave Wilson, Larry Riddle, Marge Tarsovich, Megan, Hazel, Walter, Edward, Britton Halle, Mike Long, Carol Burnworth, Dan Gaydos, Patty Hagerich, Matthew Yeager, Betty Jo, Rick Krisko, Linda Batey, Dave, Janet Kokel, Linda Capp, Holly Capp, Lori Begg, Suzanne Bryon, Max Stevanus, Dan Gaydos, Carol Burnworth., Dorothy Glass, Tina, Marge D., Oscar.

DEACONS / CHURCH PICNIC FUN

About 85 folks gathered at Greenhouse Park for the annual Deacons' Picnic with an abundance of good grub and 6K deviled eggs!

The Rev. Bill Thwing who sings in our choir, provided 3 original songs on guitar. Jim Hutchinson accompanied the hymns. Jim Farrer surprised the assembled throng with a vocal rendition of **"We Wish They All Could Be Presbyterian Girls!"** The scriptures focused on the wilderness and the sermons stressed that we can go through wilderness times of raising children or health events. When congregations are in transition, members become perplexed and full of anxiety. The Lord has us in good hands.



Prayers & Squares

Can you touch a prayer?
YOU CAN!!! ... if it is tied into a prayer quilt made by our Prayers & Squares group. Know someone in need of prayer support who would like a prayer quilt? Would you like to join the quilters?

Please contact:
Linda Capp: 814.241.6963
lcapp@atlanticbb.net
Holly Capp: 814.270.0509
hollyhock11@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Camille Maravalli	08/01
Izzabelle Maciorowski	08/03
Thomas Brill	08/05
David Wilson	08/06
Jennifer Long	08/07
Haley Mosorjak	08/08
Zella Lauf	08/08
Brandon Kaseler	08/08
Adelle Picking	08/09
Barney Custer III	08/10
McKenzie Davis-Reese	08/10
Holly Capp	08/11
Charlie Maciorowski	08/11
Scott Livingston	08/13
Kate Wylie	08/17
Shannon Glover	08/18
Georgia Yeager	08/20
William Bingler Jr.	08/22
Gus Yocum	08/22
Bernice Adams	08/22
David Steiner	08/22
Dorothy Glass	08/22
William Uhlig	08/25
Ethan Dabbs	08/25
Madeline Rhoades	08/26
James Lisankis	08/27
Brian Misner	08/27
Sandra Lee	08/27

LITURGISTS

08-02	
08-09	Barb Foust
08-16	Jim McCann
08-23	Elisa Ellenberger
08-30	Georgia Yeager

CHILDREN'S CHAT

There will be no Children's Chat for the remainder of the Summer. We will resume in September when we start Sunday School.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

08-02	Deb Lichtenfels
08-09	Jane Bennese & Cindi Cort
08-16	Elisa Ellenberger
08-23	Christine Weigman & Gary Menett
08-30	Mary Meck

USHERS

John Norris, Christine Wiegman, Karen Marsinko, Monica Black, Tom Ball, Jim McCann, Marge Tarsovich, Vivian Dunkle, Christine Wiegman

ACOLYTE

WPC CHOIR

FLOWERS

08-02	Dave, Linda and Molly Thomson
08-09	Jane Bennese
08-16	John Norris
08-23	
08-30	Georgia Yeager

OPENERS/CLOSERS

08-02	Kevin / Chiz
08-09	Kevin / Jim
08-16	Kevin / Dave
08-23	Kevin / Chiz
08-30	Kevin / Jim

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am FARMERS MARKET (P Lot)
2 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30pm Worship Service 10:30pm Fellowship Hour	3 9:00am Prayers & Squares 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:30am Bridge Club (K)	4 Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P	5 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 11:30am Bridge Club (K) 6:00pm PNC (K)	6 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	7	8 9:00am FARMERS MARKET (P Lot)
9 8:30am Adult Bible Study 11:00am CE Meeting 9:30pm Worship Service 10:30pm Fellowship Hour	10 GARDEN CLUB 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:30am Bridge Club (K)	11 Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P 11:00am Spiritual Direction	12 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 11:30am Bridge Club (K) 5:00pm WFCM (P) 6:00pm PNC (K)	13 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	14	15 9:00am FARMERS MARKET (P Lot) 12:00pm Youth Lunch
16 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30pm Worship Service 10:30pm Fellowship Hour	17 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:30am Bridge Club (K)	18 Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P	19 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 11:30am Bridge Club (K) 6:00pm PNC (K) 7:00pm Session	20 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	21	22 9:00am FARMERS MARKET (P Lot) 9:00am Girl Scouts Shelly Boback (F)
23 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30pm Worship Service 10:30pm Fellowship Hour	24 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:30am Bridge Club (K)	25 Bulletin Announcem't Deadline 3P 11:00am Spiritual Direction	26 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 11:30am Bridge Club (K) 6:00pm PNC (K) 7:00pm Koinonia Committee (P)	27 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	28	29 9:00am FARMERS MARKET (P Lot)
30 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30pm Worship Service 10:30pm Fellowship Hour	31 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:30am Bridge Club (K) 6:00pm Girl Scouts Shelly Boback					

THE THREAD
Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St.
Johnstown PA 15905-2397

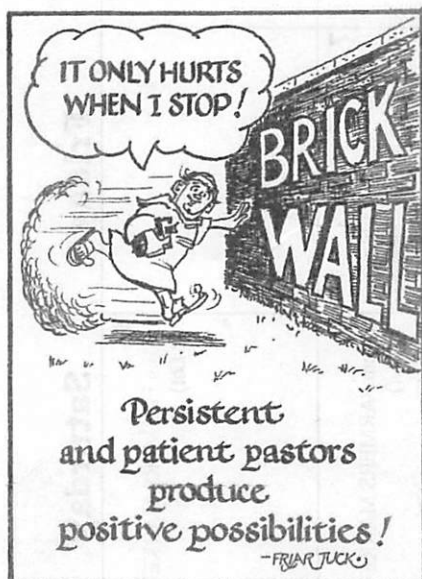
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**Worship
9:30 AM**

**Fellowship Hour
Immediately
Following**