

THE THREAD



Phone: 814-536-0796
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

MONTH OF MARCH

I was asked the question last week by a member of our church, "why do we observe Lent and what is the meaning of Lent." So let us look briefly into the origins of Lent and its importance to our Christian journey. The word "Lent" has Germanic roots referring to the "lengthening" of days, or springtime. The observance of Lent always precedes Spring and marks the 40 days before Easter. Facts about the early origin of the religious observance are not well known, however as Christianity spread through Western Europe from the 5th through 12th centuries, the observance of Lent did as well.

Lent therefore became a religious observance for a time of self-reflection, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The 40 days of Lent mirrored Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, when he went into the wilderness and was tempted by Satan.

This year, at WPC, we are observing Lent by our regular Lenten noon recitals and an evening worship, watching "The Chosen Movie Season 3. We will also observe services on Holy Wednesday and Maundy Thursday which would be a communion service and worship. Good Friday is going to be held with a dramatical musical experience of Holy Week titled "The Living Last Words", a drama written by Ruth Elaine Schram. This will be performed by WPC Chancel Choir and orchestra with our music director, Jim Hutchinson, conducting. There will be two services on Easter Sunday at 8.30 am and 10.15 am. You are invited to join in all these Lenten activities planned for this year. Invite your friends and family to join you as well.

Rev. Bernard Nti
Pastor, WPC

LETTER FROM THE CHURCH CONSULTANT

February 25th, 2024

Dear Westmont Church Members:

You may be aware that over the past few months the Westmont Presbyterian Church session and Redstone presbytery contracted with a church consultant, the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish

(<https://www.samaritancounseling.net/graham-standish>) to help Pastor Ben, the session, and the church move forward in a positive direction in response to some conflict that arose in the leadership over the past year. We wanted to update you on how things stand in this process. The session, the presbytery, and Pastor Ben met with Dr. Standish in January to share and listen to different people's perspectives and concerns. Dr. Standish is now working with Pastor Ben on issues that arose in that meeting, and he will continue to work with him and us to help the church to move forward in the healthiest way for our congregation, its leaders, members, pastor, and staff.

Please keep all of us in your prayers and ask that God would help us move forward so that we grow in grace and blessings.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Graham Standish
Church Consultant
Executive Director
Samaritan Counseling, Guidance, Consulting

LECTIONARY CALENDAR

MARCH 2024

1. March 3rd, 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent (Communion Sunday)

1st Corinthians 1: 18 – 25, John 2: 13 – 22

2. March 10th, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

1st Ephesians 2: 1 – 10, John 3: 14 – 21

3. March 17th, 2024

5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34, John 12: 20 – 33

4. March 24th, 2024

Palm/Passion Sunday (Holy Week Begins)

Psalm 118: 1 – 2, Mark 11: 1 – 11

5. March 27th, 2024

Holy Wednesday (Time is 6.30pm)

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a, John 13: 36 – 38

6. March 28th, 2024 (Time is 7.00pm)

Holy Thursday

John 13: 21 – 35

7. March 29th, 2024 (Time is 7.30pm)

Good Friday Service

“The Living Last Words” – A dramatic musical experience for Holy Week written by Ruth Elaine Schram.

Performed by WPC chancel Choir with Music Minister Mr. Jim Hutchinson conducting.

Invite your family and friends.

8. March 31st, 2024 (Worship Services at 8.30 am and 10.15 am)

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34 – 43, Mark 16: 1 – 8

Lay Readers

March 3 – Jean Livingston
March 10 – Tom Ellenberger
March 17 – Olivia Hinson
March 24 – Sue Brill
March 31 – Mark Parseghian

Fellowship Hour

March 3 - Custers
March 10 – Girl Scouts
March 17 – Jen, Jeanne & Monica
March 24 - Norrises
March 31 – No Fellowship

Acolytes

March 3 – Brennley Riffle
March 10 – Maranda Stephens
March 17 – Florence Appiah
March 24 – Maliyah Priest
March 31 – Elsie Alberter

Openers

March 3 – Bill Harris
March 10 – Jim McCann
March 17 – Ron Good
March 24 –
March 31 – Bill Harris

Ushers for the Month

Jeanne Strunk	T. Apetz
Monica Black	Joan Rush

MARCH



Nursery

March 3 – No Nursery
March 10 – Riffle Family
March 17 – Geonna and Brittany
March 24 – Paulette Wohl
March 31 – Riffle Family

Sunday School K-4, 5-6

March 3 – No Sunday School
March 10 – Team 4 and 5
March 17 – Team 1 and 5
March 24 – No Sunday School
March 31 – No Sunday School

Children's Chat

March 3 – No children's chat
March 10 – Mark Parseghian
March 17 – Betsy Suppes
March 24 – Haley Mosorjak
March 31 – Jen Priest

News to peruse...

LENTEN SEASON

Wednesdays at Westmont started up again on February 14th 6:00 p.m with Potluck Dinner followed by service. Westmont will follow weekly, including Holy Wednesday. Come enjoy the fellowship and Spirituality of the Lenten Season!

FAMILY SOUP KITCHEN

Both the Manager/Director of the Family Soup Kitchen & our Deacons give thanks to those who have contributed in the past. The need still exists for non-perishable food & healthy snacks, as well as dog & cat food. However, those who wish to do more may contribute from the following list: bleach, dish soap, Pine-Sol, Windex, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, salt & pepper, Old Bay seasoning, plastic gloves, hair nets, oven cleaner, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, tissues & hand soap. Also, during colder months, socks, gloves, and hats. Thank you very much for your continued consideration and generosity, Deacons.



2 - Cindi Cort

3 - Ellis Kane & Nicholas Fetzer

4 - Hannah Kevenk

5 - Claryne Young

6 - Zachary Davis- Reese & David Livingston

10 - Matthew Davis & Kurt Fetzer

11 - Marian Morgan & Isabella Misner

12 - John Norris

14 - Sharon Fetzer

16 - Danny Maciorowski

19 - Ron Good & Olivia Brill

21 - Tom Apetz

22 - Nancy Howard & Robert Ruitenber

24 - Patrick Krumenaker & Jennifer Stutzman

25 - Gabe Good and Jeff Webb

27 - Amy Howell & Wyatt Lohr

29 - Hunter Furguele, Michael Pavlik, Aurora Hinson & Misty Stephens

30 - Landon Glover

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Dropping an envelope in the plate on Sunday morning used to be the way all members contributed to the financial health of the church. If you were unable to attend, the process was to write a check, address an envelope, put a stamp on the envelope and take it to the post office.

We now offer electronic giving. Members can have their donations made electronically from a checking or savings account or charged to a credit card to earn rewards. Recurring donations can be set up and directed to one or more church ministries. For example – your donation can be set up to include portions to the general fund, capital campaign, music ministry, Prayers and Squares, etc. This can all be handled by the church if you prefer. Donations can be changed or paused at any time by the member or by calling the church office. Another benefit is that a record of all donations is maintained on your personal account for access at any time.

Please consider taking something off of your plate instead of putting something into our plate. On line giving makes it easier for everyone. Please call the church or ask any member of the Stewardship or Finance Committee if you would like to enroll or if you have any questions. Blessings to all.

Farmers Market - Our market is in need of empty plastic bottles to fill with sand to support our signs. The current containers have outlived their useful lives. We would prefer the clear bottles with an attached handle - like the Hawaiian Punch jugs. Just 83 days to kickoff !!

BOOK CLUB

Mark your calendars for Monday, April 29 for another upcoming Book Club discussion. Book to be announced

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00am Safety Committee (Entire Church)	2 11:00am Bill Brader Funeral
3 9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Worship Communion (S) 11:15am Fellowship Hour 11:30am CE meeting (UL4)	4 9:00am Prayers & Squares 1:30pm Prayer Group (C) 3:00pm Good News (F)	5 6:30pm Prayer Meeting (K)	6 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 12:00pm Musical Recital 6:00pm WAW - Dinner (F) 6:30pm WAW - Worship (F)	7 1:30pm Staff Meeting (K) 6:30pm Bible Study - K	8	9
10 9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Worship and Scout Sunday (S) 11:15am Fellowship Hour	11 9:00am Prayers & Squares 9:00am Garden Club (F) 1:30pm Prayer Group (C) 3:00pm Good News (F)	12 6:30pm Prayer Meeting (K)	13 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 12:00pm Musical Recital 5:30pm WFCM 6:00pm WAW - Dinner (F) 6:30pm WAW - Worship (F)	14 7:30am Finance Meeting (Eat 'n Park) 1:30pm Staff Meeting (K) 6:30pm Special Needs Dance (F) 6:30pm Bible Study - K	15	16 Teas and Tutus (F)
17 9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Worship (S) 11:15am Fellowship Hour	18 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Goup 3:00pm Good News (F)	19 6:30pm Prayer Meeting (K)	20 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 12:00pm Musical Recital 7:00pm Session	21 4:00pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Bible Study - K	22	23 8:00am Mens Breakfast 6:30pm Annual Easter Egg Hunt
24 Teen Group (F) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Worship - Palm Sunday (S) 11:15am Fellowship Hour	25 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Group 3:00pm Good News (F)	26 7:00am Young Men's Breakfast 6:30pm Prayer Meeting (K)	27 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 6:00pm WAW - Dinner (F) 6:30pm WAW - Worship (F)	28 7:00pm Worship - Maundy Thursday	29 8:00am Women's Breakfast 7:30pm Good Friday Cantata	30
31 8:30am Early Easter Worship (S) 9:00am Adult Sunday School (K) 10:15am Worship - Easter Sunday -2ns Service (S)						

THE THREAD
Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St.
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814-536-0796
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MISSIONAL INTENTIONS TO BE:
Christ Centered
Biblically Based
Servant Led
Blessed to be a Blessing

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Fellowship Hour 11:15 a.m.

Cable Broadcast
Monday 7:00 p.m.

PASTOR
Rev. Bernard Nti

SEXTON
Kevin Howell

CHILDREN'S MUSIC DIRECTOR/MUSIC ASSOCIATE
Kristen Kane

MINISTER OF MUSIC/ORGANIST
Jim Hutchinson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Tom Young

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Tracy Kirkstadt

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