

The Thread

MARCH 2026

Dear Friends,

As you read this, there is an excellent chance that Barb and I are newly-minted, first-time grandparents. To say we are excited about this would be a serious understatement. We are ecstatic about this happening. We also are grateful to God for new life coming into our lives and the life of the world and to you for giving us time to travel and be with Will and Jada and connect with baby Emersyn Grace.

The baby is due to arrive February 25 (yes, I know, babies come when they're ready, not always when they're expected). We would like to be there for the birth. "There" is Russellville, Arkansas, not exactly next door to Westmont (or anyplace else in Pennsylvania). As I write this, we are in the process of making arrangements to fly out of Johnstown February 24 and return March 10.

The Rev. Carole Isley Corey will be filling in for me and will be leading worship and preaching March 1 (Communion Sunday) and March 8. I thank her for this. As always, if there is a need for pastoral ministry, please call the church office (814-536-0796) and we will respond.

I covet your prayers about this blessed event in our lives, as well as all we have going on at WPC. Along with our people, staff, programs and missions of the church we also will be making some decisions shortly that will begin your search for a new pastor. It's an exciting time for all of us as we seek God's will and direction for the future, not only in our individual lives, but in the life we share together as a community of faith in Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bless you and WPC.

In Christ,

Ken

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VANDERBLOEM SEARCH FIRM

Dear WPC Members,

Session has an important announcement to share with you. It is time to start a search for a new Pastor. This time Session has decided to take a different approach to finding a new Pastor. Session has approved that we retain the services of the Vanderbloem Search Group to guide us through the search process for a new Pastor.

So, who is the Vanderbloem Search Group? The Vanderbloem Search Group began in 2009 when founder William Vanderbloem recognized that Churches across the nation struggled to find and hire exceptional leaders. Drawing on his 15 years of experience as a Senior Pastor and his tenure as an HR leader at a Fortune 200 company, William launched the Vanderbloem Search Group. They are headquartered in Houston, Texas and are regarded as the premier search firm in the country for recruiting Pastors and other Church leaders.

There are three principal reasons that led Session to take this route:

1. It is a Sellers' Market for Pastors. The demand for quality pastors exceeds the supply.
2. The current Search Process is a flawed process. PNCs are on their own to sift through a lot of information and data – much of which is old or obsolete.
3. There is no mechanism in place to vet candidates to the degree that it is necessary when conducting a Pastor Search.

After evaluating these points and others, Session came to the unanimous conclusion that we need outside help in order to optimize our chances of finding a Pastor who is a good match for our Church.

There are many advantages to utilizing Vanderbloem's services. Three of the principal advantages of using Vanderbloem are:

1. Vanderbloem has a large and extensive database of candidates they tap into to start matching possible candidates with WPC's profile of its desired Pastor description.
2. They are also quite skilled in vetting potential candidates in a way we could never do on our own.
3. The one advantage that will resonate with everyone is Time. The typical time range, from the first official on site meeting with the Vanderbloem team to the acceptance of a Pastor's Terms of Call is between nine and twelve months. This provides a lot of benefits to the Church versus the typical three year search.

There is only one negative to hiring a Search Firm and that is, it costs money. The cost for a Pastor Search with Vanderbloem is \$30,000. Fortunately, we have a restricted Fund, the Baker Fund, available to us. This Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$34,000. The Baker Fund is a restricted Fund that stipulates that monies from this Fund cannot be used for: Any type of Capital project, repair or an addition to the Church or the Manses. Because of these restrictions, the Baker Fund has not been heavily utilized. Session believes this would be an excellent way to utilize these funds to benefit the Church. The added benefit of using the Baker Fund is that WPC's 2026 budget and cash flow projections will stay intact, as there will be no monies coming out of operations for this search.

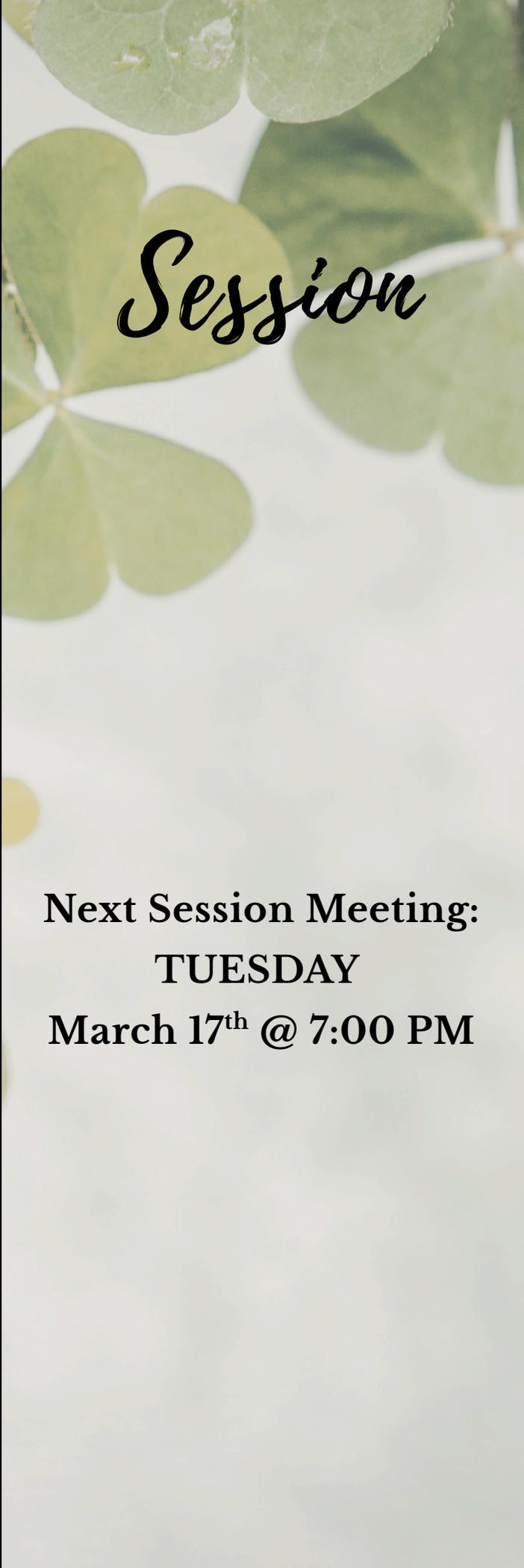
Session representatives have already met with the Presbytery, and the Presbytery has given their approval to Session to retain the Vanderbloem Search Firm for our search. So, what is WPC's responsibility in this partnership with Vanderbloem? Our single biggest responsibility is for Session and the Nominating Committee to form a well-balanced Pastor Nominating Committee or PNC. This PNC should encompass members that possess the thirteen proven criteria that Vanderbloem has developed, that makes for a successful PNC. We hope there will be a large interest from members wanting to serve on this committee. It should be an interesting and rewarding endeavor for all that want to be a part of this committee. Although it will be a commitment of time and energy, the shortened time period of the search process by using Vanderbloem is a positive advantage to consider when deciding to serve on the PNC committee.

Session will soon have more specific information available for everyone as to how this PNC and the search process will operate versus previous PNCs. So, please consider serving.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Westmont Presbyterian Church.

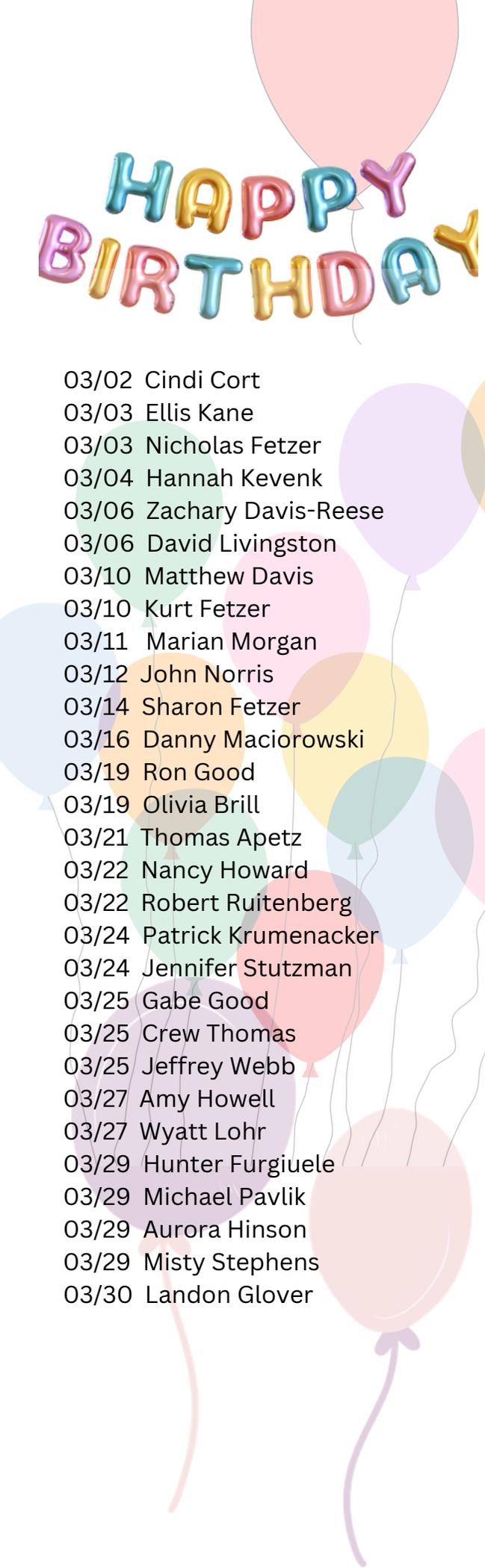
WPC Session

- Two Session Meetings in March are scheduled for Tuesday, 03-17-26 and Tuesday, 03-24-26
- 2026 **Communion Schedule** Approved
- **Financial Officers Elected:**
Treasurer & 3 Assistant Treasurers
- **Standing Committees:**
Chairs assigned & members reorganized
- **Christian Ed:**
Researching new curriculum for 5th-12th SS class
- **Worship & Music:**
6PM Maundy Thursday Service @ 1st
Presbyterian Church
7PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ WPC
- **Mission:**
Looking at more **community outreach projects**
- **Nominating:**
To start search for next PNC and Congregational Meeting pending to approve new PNC
- Approved hire of **Pastoral Leadership Search Firm** to assist PNC



Session

Next Session Meeting:
TUESDAY
March 17th @ 7:00 PM



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

03/02 Cindi Cort
03/03 Ellis Kane
03/03 Nicholas Fetzer
03/04 Hannah Kevenk
03/06 Zachary Davis-Reese
03/06 David Livingston
03/10 Matthew Davis
03/10 Kurt Fetzer
03/11 Marian Morgan
03/12 John Norris
03/14 Sharon Fetzer
03/16 Danny Maciorowski
03/19 Ron Good
03/19 Olivia Brill
03/21 Thomas Apetz
03/22 Nancy Howard
03/22 Robert Ruitenberg
03/24 Patrick Krumenacker
03/24 Jennifer Stutzman
03/25 Gabe Good
03/25 Crew Thomas
03/25 Jeffrey Webb
03/27 Amy Howell
03/27 Wyatt Lohr
03/29 Hunter Furguele
03/29 Michael Pavlik
03/29 Aurora Hinson
03/29 Misty Stephens
03/30 Landon Glover

Those Who Serve

LITURGISTS

03-01 Dave Thomson*
03-08 Mark Parseghian*
03-15 Greg Suppes*
03-22 Tom Ellenberger*
03-29 Miriam Daisley*

*Second Reading Barb Foust

CHILDREN'S CHAT

03/01 No Children's Chat
03/08 Betsy Suppes
03/22 Gary Lichtenfels
03/15 Gretchen Lohr
03/29 Briana Lohr

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

03/01 Communion Sunday
03/08 Tom Ball, Tom Binger, Leslie Winters
03/15 Parseghian family
03/22 Sharon & Taylor Kaseler
03/29 Gary Menett & Christine Wiegman

USHERS

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

ACOLYTE

WPC CHOIR

OPENERS & CLOSERS

03/01 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Dave Wylie
03/08 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Jim McCann
03/15 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Dave Wylie
03/22 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Jim McCann
03/29 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Chiz Price

HOW CAN *we Pray* FOR YOU?

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, Lennyn, Iver, Edward, Mike & Brittany & Family, Britton Halle, Mike Long, Carol Burnworth, Patty Hagerich, Betty Jo, Rick Krisko, Linda Batey

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

March



Christian Ed News



Youth News

GND will meet on March 21st for a offsite field trip. We will meet from 12-2 for lunch and games. All kids in grades 5th - 12th are invited to join. Please let Bri Lohr know if your child will be attending.

CE Announcements

We will be hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th. The CE Committee would like to ask for donations of candy to fill treat bags for the participants. As this is a community event, we ask that all candy donations be peanut free to ensure every child's safety.

This year WPC will be transported to an island for Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save during the week of June 8th - 12th. More information will be posted on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall for those interested in donating supplies or helping during VBS.

Upcoming Events

March:

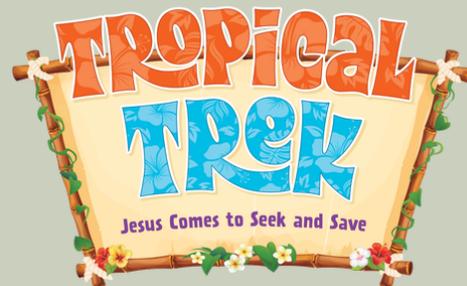
- 03/08 CE Committee meeting
- 03/21 GND Offsite Trip
- 03/27 Easter Egg Hunt Set-up
- 03/28 Easter Egg Hunt

April:

- 04/12 CE Committee Meeting
- 04/18 Youth Lunch

May:

- 05/16 Youth Lunch
- 05/17 CE Committee Meeting
- 05/31 Last Sunday School



Pastor Appreciation



We are so blessed and grateful to have Ken and Barb with us. We heard they really love Johnstown winters! LOL!!!



The Doug Stevens Event was a huge success and well attended. **Doug's 50th Ordination Anniversary** was celebrated with wonderful memories.



Palm Sunday Service & Cantata

More than just a Cantata - it's a worship experience! The procession of palms are followed by service culminating with the Cantata performed near the end of service. Bring a friend and join our community on Palm Sunday.

March 29th 10:15 am.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday service will be held at First Presbyterian Church.

April 2nd 6:00 pm

Good Friday

Join us on one of the most holy days by singing hymns, offering prayers, reading Scripture, and remembering the crucifixion of Jesus.

April 3rd 7:00 pm

Easter

Come celebrate the hope and joy of Easter with a special message and triumphant music.

He Has Risen!

April 5th 10:15 am

The word "Stewardship" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. It is centered at the top of the page. The background behind the text is a soft-focus image of green clover leaves.

Stewardship

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? "... TO DO JUSTICE ..." – MICAH 6:8

The prophet Micah calls for a life that is focused on justice and mercy. It's a call to action, urging us to live out our faith in a way that reflects God's love, to put justice into practice.

We can all respond to the prophet's call through simple acts of kindness and by showing care and compassion to others. Small gestures like speaking up for someone who needs a voice, sharing a meal with someone who is hungry or offering relief to those in crisis are all works of justice. Although they may start out as small acts, they make a big difference and have a profound impact on the world around us.

Such actions work to create more supportive communities and can be the foundation for addressing the larger justice issues that exist everywhere.

We are all aware of the many ways our church works to ensure that all of God's people can flourish. One Great Hour of Sharing is centered in the call to do just that, to do our part to create justice so every person can truly live. The Offering supports the causes of hunger and poverty alleviation, disaster relief, community development, climate change, immigration/migration and refugee advocacy. These vital areas of ministry — chosen by the General Assembly — go a long way to ensure that every person is able to live into the fullness of life that is God's promise to all of us.

Because we believe that all people are created and loved by God, our faith compels us to work toward justice for all in the way of Christ Jesus.

This is what the Lord requires of us. To do justice, but also to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

This Easter, may we do our part to be the Church together by supporting One Great Hour of Sharing and the justice ministries it supports.

Please give generously by using the harvest gold OGHS envelope in your envelope packet, utilizing the Special Offerings envelope in the pew rack (and checking the OGHS box), or by marking your donation "OGHS."

Finance Committee

WPC's long term savings are placed with New Covenant Funds. New Covenant Funds are a family of socially responsible funds aligned with the values and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

New Covenant Funds were established in 1998 to facilitate financial management of investments and endowment assets for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The funds are designed to allow churches to invest in a way that aligns with Presbyterian social witness principles, supporting both financial growth and ethical stewardship.

The New Covenant Trust Company, a subsidiary of the Presbyterian Foundation, serves as the investment advisor to the funds. Governance of the funds ensures that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church retains oversight.

New Covenant offers 4 mutual fund options: Balanced Growth Fund, Growth Fund, Balanced Income Fund and Income Fund. Our current mix is as follows:

Balanced Income Fund	15%
Growth Fund	30%
Balanced Growth Fund	55%

The Finance Committee monitors this continuously, and we are blessed with several committee members who are quite versed in such matters.

It is important to remember that these funds represent – for all intents and purposes “non-spendable money”. Think of it as a pension fund. Our policy permits us to withdraw 5% of the account value annually to support general operating expenses. Traditionally, a portion of our endowments are invested in this fund. Members can also contribute directly to the fund, and excess money in the Centennial Fund at the conclusion of the Centennial Celebration will be directed to our Investment Account.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Finance Committee should you have any questions or would like additional information.

Blessings, The WPC Finance Committee.

General Giving
January 2026 - \$ 40,333
January 2025 - \$ 38,071
Monthly Budget - \$ 27,000

What's Happening

LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

Each Wednesday during Lent, beginning February 25th, we will host a noon recital featuring a different performer or group. Doors open at 11:30 AM.

WEDNESDAYS @ WESTMONT During Lent, we meet at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner followed by a video series and discussion. There will be a lesson each week held in the nursery for elementary and middle school children.

POTLUCK DINNER: sign-up sheets will be passed around each week for those who wish to bring something the next week.

SPECIAL NEEDS DANCE

On March 19th our Special Needs Ministry will host a St. Patrick's Day Dance in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8:30 PM. Donations of cookies are appreciated and we welcome all volunteers!

JACOB GRUSS CONCERT

Come and listen to a wonderful organ concert on March 20th at 7:00 PM. Jacob Gruss, heralded by The Diapason magazine as a "Top 20 under 30," is a rising star in the world of organ performance and church music. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Reception to follow.

YOUTH GROUP FIELD TRIP (kids in grades 5-12)

On the 21st our youth group will be going on a field trip in place of the youth lunch. If your child would like to attend, please turn in a permission slip to Briana Lohr by March 18th.

EASTER EGG HUNT

CE is eager to host our annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th from 1-3 PM. We will be holding the hunt outside, weather permitting and will move inside if necessary. There will be separate hunts for each age group. The age groups are 0-3, 4-6, and 7-12. Following the hunt, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and a movie. Candy donations are appreciated; peanut free if possible.

WPC BOOK CLUB MEETING:

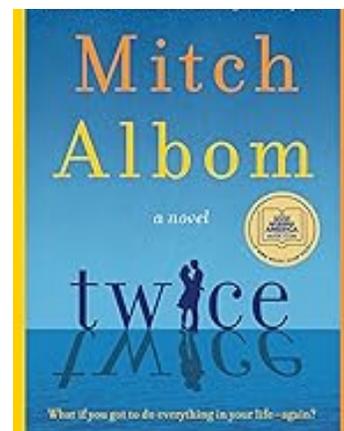
Where: Parlor

When: 7P on the last Monday of each month.

Selection for March: "Twice" by Mitch Albom

Questions? Contact Kathy Good for more information.

(814) 242-5228



WPC Centennial Celebration Organ Recital

JACOB GRUSS
Organist

Date:
March 20, 2026
Time: 7:30 pm

Venue:
Westmont
Presbyterian
Church

THE RECITAL IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND FREE TO ATTEND. A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CONCERT. THERE WILL BE A FREE WILL OFFERING FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO GIVE.

JOIN WPC FOR

Wednesday Noon Recitals

We will have a noon time recital on Wednesdays during Lent. These recitals will be performed by the following:

2/25 Martin Meyer
3/04 Mattew Klumpp
3/11 Tim & Courtney Dabbs
3/18 Kevin Clemens
3/25 Bridget Deveney

Wednesdays at 12:00 PM
601 Luzerne St., Johnstown PA
15956

WEDNESDAY Dinner Nights!

During Lent, a potluck dinner will be followed by a series of short videos narrated by Dr. Ken Bailey.
Feb., 25 - March 4, 11, 18, 25

Join us on Wednesdays!

FELLOWSHIP HALL | 5:30 PM

A sign-up sheet for what you're bringing to the potluck will be in the Koinonia room.



Join Westmont Presbyterian
Church for our

Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, 28 MARCH 2026 | 1-3 PM
RAIN OR SHINE

601 Luzerne St, Johnstown PA 15956

Come to our annual Easter Egg Hunt! This hunt is for kids ages 0-12.



WPC Student Highlights

Franklin Silver - made the honor roll @ Westmont Elementary!

CONGRATULATIONS FRANKLIN!!!

Olivia Stirling - accepted to IUP. **CONGRATULATIONS OLIVIA!!!**

Elsie Alberter - made high honors at Bishop McCort!

CONGRATULATIONS ELSIE!!! Also, Elsie will be a featured dancer in the upcoming musical "Cinderella."

Ethan Good - is a member of the Johnstown Youth Symphony and recently accompanied a local jazz band. He plays cello, clarinet, drums and working on oboe. **HE'S A ONE MAN BAND!!!**

Gabe Good - Aspiring Chef! Looking forward to Pine Springs Camp and taking Paddle Board lessons in Annapolis, MD

Charlie, Danny, and Izzy Maciorowski - are preparing for the Conemaugh Twp. High School musical "Matilda." Izzy is in the musical and Charlie and Danny are part of the stage crew.

GO MACIOROWSKI SIBS!!!



The Stephen Girls - Maranda, Mariah, and Macee - all three have qualified for the GJY Swim Team Districts in multiple events. Next week, they will be travelling to Ohio for a three-day event. **WE ARE SUPER PROUD OF YOU!!!**

Please submit your student

news to

info@westmontpc.org

and

blor@westmontpc.org

Swanson Music Sweet

LENTEN MUSIC MINISTRY

OUR WEDNESDAY NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES

02/25 Martin Meyer and Kyle Petroski, organists and students at IUP
Tammy Germana, Liturgist

03/01 Matt Klumpp, organist pursuing his Master of Arts in organ performance at IUP
Betsy Suppes, Liturgist

03/08 Tim and Courtney Dabbs, guitars and vocals, original contemporary music
Barney Custer, Liturgist

03/15 Kevin Clemens, CAGO, organist at St. Andrews Episcopal, Pittsburgh, PA
Bill Thwing, Liturgist

03/22 Bridget Deveney, SPC, organist, Immaculate Conception, Irwin, PA and
Dean of the American Guild of Organists, Greensburg Chapter and Committee
Member of the national AGOYO for young organists
Monica Black, Liturgist

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION RECITALS

03/20 7:30P Jacob Gruss, organist. Greensburg native, a Julliard Graduate in organ performance and pursuing a Master's in Organ Performance at Yale.

04/19 4P Birk and Hoke Duo (Eric and Bernadette).

Keyboard duo performing works for organ, piano and organ/piano duets. Eric holds the AGO FAGO certificate and is the Executive Assistance for the American Guild of Organists. Bernadette holds a MM in piano and the AAGO certificate in the AGO and is the Music Director and organist at the First Reformed Episcopal Church, NYC, where she founded the Schola.

CHORAL CONCERTS

03/29 10:15A Living Last Words – the choral and music drama depicting the last words of Christ at the Cross. This will be repeated at 3pm with the Ligonier Council of Churches at Heritage Methodist on the square.

Sure hope to see a whole bunch of our members at these wonderful programs with these amazingly talented musicians and most certainly our incredible Chancel Choir!

Hutch

**FIRST ANNUAL JOYCE NORRIS MEMORIAL EASTER
ROLL SALE BENEFITTING PRAYERS AND SQUARES**

We will be selling apricot, nut, and poppyseed rolls for Easter to help fund Prayers and Squares. **All orders are due by this Saturday, February 28 (firm).** Turn your order form in to the church office, put it in the offering plate, or call Kathy Parseghian at the number below. Rolls will be available for pick up after worship on March 8. Rolls will be made here at MPC on Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7. If you would like to help, sign-up sheets are available in the Koinonia Room and Fellowship Hall. **Rolls will be \$15 each.** They freeze well so order extras to hold you over until we make them again at Thanksgiving. Call Kathy Parseghian at 814-242-7398 to order or if you have any questions.

Your name and phone number _____

<u>Type of Roll</u>	<u>Number of Rolls</u>	<u>Amount</u>
APRICOT		
NUT		
POPPYSEED		

TOTAL DUE: _____

THE THREAD
Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St.
Johnstown PA 15905-2397
814-536-0796
info@westmontpc.org
(Return Service Requested)

**NON-PROFIT
ORGN.**

**U.S. Postage
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Johnstown PA
Permit #65**

Address Label Here

Save the Date! ~ May 16 & 17, 2026



1926 ~ 2026
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Fellowship Hour 11:15 a.m.