



WESTERN SPIRE

APRIL 2021

“Finally, brothers and sisters, good-bye. Put things in order, respond to my encouragement, be in harmony with each other, and live in peace - and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

~ 2 Corinthians 13:11

People of God at WPC,

Over the past four and a half years, we have walked together in worship and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. When I arrived in Palmyra, I was excited about a new chapter in my ministry, in our family’s life, and what God had in store for us together. I could not have dreamed of how much I would learn and grow as your pastor.

Which makes leaving so hard. Even as we are excited about this next new chapter, we hold in our hearts the grief of having to say goodbye to you who we love so dearly.

You have been an amazing family of faith, and you will always be in my heart as my first call, and I will continue to pray for you daily as you look into the next chapter God is unfolding for *you*.

At the same time, I want to offer a word of advice and encouragement. The past year has been particularly painful and trying. We have experienced rupture in some relationships, and some significant division. We have not been immune from the polarization prevalent across our nation.

The question that has always been at the front of my mind is this: what is God calling God’s people to be and do? The question is *not*, ‘how can I be the most patriotic?’ Or ‘what is the “nice” message of Jesus?’ Because God’s purposes are neither patriotism nor always “nice.” God’s purposes are justice, mercy, and love. And those are the things we ought to be pursuing.

As people of faith, we can have disagreements on many things. God doesn’t expect us to vote along a single party line - ever.

But God *does* expect us to listen, *particularly* to those on the margins. We are a congregation that has been most fortunate and most privileged to be well-endowed, well-invested, and well-blessed. But we have not always been good listeners.

It is time to unstop our ears, to listen to voices we may disagree with, as uncomfortable as that may make us. Our reaction will be defensiveness, to respond with justifications, to say, “but no!”

When those instincts kick in, that is when we most need to quiet our mouths and open our ears. For it is then that God is most likely speaking.

It is only by listening that we can truly live in unity. It is only through listening that God’s justice can be fully achieved. It is only in listening that the true love of Christ can shine through the darkness of these trying times.

My gratitude for your willingness to listen is full. My prayers will be with you - every day. And I will hold my love for you in my heart forever.

Grace & peace,

~Pastor Kyle

Notes from Session

Session continues to move forward handling the usual church business. Christian Ed reported the exciting news that we will have 5 kids from our church attending Camp Whitman this summer. This is a new record for us. The Deacons got some positive feedback from the valentine cards that the Sunday School made for our shut ins. The worship and finance teams will investigate offering a way to donate online through the Presbyterian Foundation. We think we might get some people, particularly the ones watching online, to donate if we make it easy for them. We are always looking for a way to decrease our deficit.

The big news for the month of course is learning that Kyle will be moving to a new call. Many of us are sad to see him go and wish him and his family well. This means we will begin another new chapter. We will meet with Committee on Ministry to work on getting an interim pastor while we begin the huge task of searching for our new pastor. Stayed tuned as we begin our journey!



I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the hundreds of cards, charitable donations, long letters of remembrance, prayers, and phone calls from church, colleagues, and former students. Andy was truly a much-loved man. The family is looking forward to sharing happy memories and hugs at a post-Covid memorial service and celebration of his life. All will be welcome; look for an announcement.

Carol Sloan

Message from the Women's Circle –

Always remember these things that money cannot buy:

These are attributes that our beloved Jesus modeled. We too can model whether we are rich or poor alike. - Blessings

1. *Manners*
2. *Morals*
3. *Respect*
4. *Character*
5. *Common Sense*
6. *Trust*
7. *Patience*
8. *Class*
9. *Integrity*
10. *Love*

The Women's Circle meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. We are meeting at 1:30 PM and share fellowship and Biblical insights through open discussions. We currently are meeting both in-person and on zoom. If you are interested, we would love to have you join us. You can reach out to Randy Kennard or Jan Taylor to be put on our email list. You are also welcome to just pop in.



Our church has offered CD recordings of our worship services. These have been available for anyone. For quite some time there have not been any requests for these CD's. For that reason, we are entertaining the option to discontinue this service to our congregation. There are copies of the worship service recorded on Facebook which support this need.

We want to hear from you before we finalize the decision to discontinue recording CD's.

Please contact either Sue Leonard of Worship, or Randy Kennard of Deacons with your feedback.

We graciously thank you for any thoughts you might have.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 8	Emily Hunt
April 10	Jonnie Fontaine
April 15	Paul Dlugosh
April 18	Dave Pinkney
April 22	Val Gendron
April 24	Benjamin Dlugosh
April 24	Jan Semans
April 26	Ron Pieters

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 12	Terry & Val Gendron
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If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!

Our Prayer Concerns (updated March 24, 2021)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Myrtle Lasher (requested by Ray and Sharon Marr)

Family & Friends of Robert “Andy” Sloan (requested by the Deacons)

Family & Friends of Betsy Goodwin (requested by the Deacons)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

Jeffrey Bavis, AJ Bliss, Cody Bullock, Adam Hill, Sarah Jagger, Joe Krebbeks, Patrick Magno, Josh Polli, Dylan Smith, Adam Stephens, Adam VanNatta, Shod Williams

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

All caregivers, All those who have been affected by the Coronavirus, All victims of violence, hatred and hunger, Wes Barager, Muffie Beato, Brenda, John Davis, Jacquie DeBrine, Peter Fadden, Ian Guest, Janet Haigh, Bill Hassler, Bobby Haurand, Steve Hays, Judy Humphrey, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Barbara Denton Knight, Samantha Knight, Elizabeth Lewis, Jessica Locey, Karen Lupa, Jennifer Mahnke, Iris McConnell, David Mills, Jim Murray, Denise Nash, Mary Ann Niemiec, Rev. Dick Otterness, Ron Pieters, Joanne Rockwell, Kathy Rynders, Jonathan Santmyer, Delaney & Calvin Scheuerman, Andrew Stephens, Rev. Eric Titus, Charlie Tolson, Connie West, Deborah Wilder & family, Kevin Woolever, Bob Wyllie

Please pray for those who wish to remain anonymous as they, too, need our prayers.

Others for whom we continue to pray:

Tracy D’Arduini, Harold M. Delhagen, Kathleen Dougherty, Art Duel, Evelyn Elsenheimer, Greg Elsenheimer, Kriss Larsen, Kathy Lesio, Ashley Maragas, Cim McFarlane, Paul Murphy, Wesley Pruitt, Wilma Redman, David Squier, Fran Storm, Albert Zaranka

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Madelyn Jagger, Beverly Koeberle, Bev Mouton, Ginny Palmer

Prayers of Intercession are offered each day by our Pastor and Deacons.

To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Pastor Kyle, Randy Kennard, chair of Deacons, Sandy McMenammin, or the Church office. Please remember that all prayer requests are automatically removed from the list after one month unless the giver specifically requests continuation.

Ministry Teams

If a ministry team is going to meet,
the chair will reach you
by phone and/or email.

Stay Well. Stay Safe.

You can mail your
offering to
101 East Main St.
Palmyra, NY 14522.
Or you can bring your
offering to the church.
Kathy puts an offering plate
outside the office Tues.,
Wed., and Thurs. 9:00-2:00.



Breakfast With Mom



Where: Western Presbyterian Church
101 E. Main St. Palmyra

Date: **Sunday May 9, 2021**

Time: 8:30 – 11:30 am

Price: \$6 per person

Includes:
pancakes
sausage
applesauce

**Take
Out
Only**

Benefits Western Presbyterian Church
from the Sunday School Children



APRIL 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	2 Good Friday Virtual Service	3
4 Easter Sunday No Sunday School Communion Sunday	5 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 7 pm Fellowship FH	6 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed.	7 10 am Mission/Social Concerns 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	8 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	9	10
11 2 nd Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School	12 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	13 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Worship	14 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	15 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	16	17
18 3 rd Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School	19 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	20	21 1:30 pm Circle FH 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom 6:30 pm Property	22 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	23	24
25 4 th Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School	26 4:30 pm CTNS	27 7 pm Session	28	29	30	



MAY 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
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2 5th Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School	3 7 pm Fellowship Zoom	4 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed.	5 10 am Mission/Social Concerns	6 National Day of Prayer	7	8
9 Mother's Day CTNS Breakfast 8:30 to 11:30 am Takeout Only 9 am Sunday School Communion Sunday	10	11 7 pm Worship	12	13	14	15
16 7th Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School	17	18 SPIRE DEADLINE 6-9 pm King's Daughters FH	19 1:30 pm Circle FH 6:30 pm Property	20	21	22
23 Day of Pentecost Youth Led Service Last Day of Sunday School	24 4:30 pm CTNS	25 7 pm Session	26	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday	31 Memorial Day Office Closed					