



# WESTERN SPIRE

## FEBRUARY 2021

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” ~Philippians 4:4

Beloved,

That word, “again,” is one that, for me, carries a negative connotation. I think of phrases like, “here we go again,” or think, “we’re having that for dinner... *again?*” It’s the idea of leftovers... of repeating... like the movie *Groundhog Day*, where Bill Murray is made to relive the same day over and over... *again*.

And yet...

Lent is just around the corner (Ash Wednesday will be February 17!). Our theme this year will be “Again & Again.” And I am coming to find a new appreciation for this word. “Again” can be comforting. It can be indicative of cycles - after all, the liturgical calendar is a cycle we repeat year after year. It is a reminder that Jesus will come to redeem us, will come chasing after us - *again and again and again*.

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman writes, “I’m so unbelievably grateful for the ways God shows up over and over again despite our best efforts to push God away. Thank God that we are not left alone in our destructive cadence, but we are met by God, repeatedly forgiven, and mercifully shown the way.”

Usually, our observance of Lent is a somber occasion, beginning with Ash Wednesday’s reminder of our mortality and temporariness, and concluding with Good Friday’s remembrance of Christ’s horrific death.

But this year, I think we’ve all had enough reminders of our impermanence. This year, I want to encourage us to embrace the beauty of “again”; the reminder that God’s love and grace are recurring events in our lives, and that nothing, not even death, can overcome Jesus’ love.

So, let us prepare to step into Lent - again - and seek the beauty in the familiar.

Grace & peace (again),

~Pastor Kyle

# Notes from Session

Session continues to work for money saving ideas for the 2021 budget. Session will vote on the new budget at the next meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. It will be presented to the congregation when we can have a congregational meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any session member or Finance team member.

Personnel reviews are being done. Sexual Harassment Training for employees and volunteers as required by state law is done.

Janet Manktelow and Eric Chapman were re-elected for another year of service. The membership role was reviewed, and a few changes were made.

Session continues to work hard for our church family. We are always available to talk and answer questions.



Betsy and I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to you, our WPC family. You have supported Betsy through your cards and prayers, and visits (when possible). They have definitely lifted her spirits. And we are both very grateful for your gift of meals via the Meal Train and your offers of service.

Her cancer and the side effects from treatments have impaired her immune system. Therefore, we will remain quarantined in our home until it is safe to welcome visitors and attend in-person worship and activities.

Blessings for good health and wellness,

Betsy and Terry Goodwin

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 17, 2021**  
**An At-Home Liturgy**

The beginning of Lent brings a new invitation - an invitation into a deeper life of faith, an invitation to renewed spirituality, and an invitation into deeper awareness of God and self. This liturgy is designed to carve out space for personal reflection and intention setting at the start, knowing that the more honest we are with our hopes for this season, the more meaningful this season can become.

This liturgy is designed for use at home, to be done individually, or with your family. Specific directions for accessing the interactive worship will be forthcoming. It will be different, but I also think it will be uniquely meaningful in this time of pandemic.

Watch your email and our social media for more information!

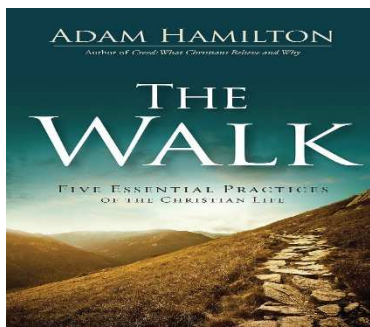
**Our Digital Footprint is Expanding!**

In an effort to reach more people, and to more creatively expand opportunities for prayer and reflection, WPC is now on Instagram and Twitter!

On Instagram, you can find us at WesternPresPalmyra, and on Twitter @PalmyraPres (or search for WesternPresPalmyra).

We also continue to be on Facebook, with our services streaming every Sunday morning at 10 am.

To help us reach more people, please follow us and share our posts!



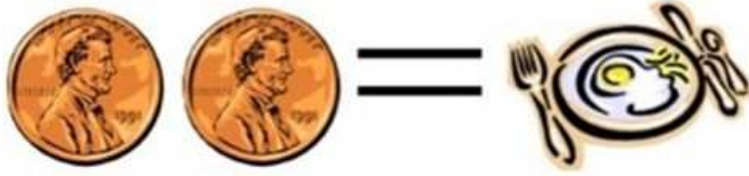
**Lenten Book Study**  
***The Walk*, by Adam Hamilton**

How do we walk with Christ - daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life.

In this book, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

This is a six-week study that will begin on Tuesday, February 23 at 10 am. Books are \$12 each. Please let Kathy or Pastor Kyle know if you would like to join us!

# 2 CENTS-A-MEAL



Have you been watching the news on television or on social media and been disturbed at hearing about people going hungry in our area? Hidden hunger can be all around us without our knowing. Have you left our Sunday service in person or virtually feeling moved to help feed our neighbors but not knowing how? Here is something simple that we can do to show our love to those who face food shortages:

## 2 Cents A Meal.

**Who** can participate? Every family, large or small.

**What** is 2 Cents A Meal? It is a program where you put 2 cents or more into a container every time each one of us eats a meal. Even our little ones can take part in making a difference by sharing their two coins. It is a daily reminder of how much God loves us and how we can show God's love to others. It is an action we can take together as a church community.

**Where** can I receive a container? Pick one up at church or call Kathy in the church office if you just can't come into the building and someone from the Mission team will deliver a container.

**When** will we begin? The Mission team will hand out containers at church on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> and everyone can begin filling them on February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday. We ask that you return your container to church on or before April 4<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 1	James Bush
February 3	Lynette Cogan
February 8	Frank Koeberle
February 11	Patricia Dlugosh
February 13	Frank Lawrence
February 13	Daphne Hemmings
February 14	Sylvia Lyon
February 19	Gene Bassage
February 21	Martha Beato
February 24	Edie Chapman
February 25	Janet Manktelow
February 25	Pam Hughes
February 26	Maxine Babcock

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 15	John Cook & Wilma Redman
February 15	Jerry & Sandy Kelly

**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 January 27, 2021)

### Grieving:

Family & Friends of David Prince (requested by Sue Leonard)

Family & Friends of Francis Modaffari (requested by Christy Modaffari)

Family & Friends of Burt Manktelow (requested by Paul and Janet Manktelow)

Family & Friends of Marilyn Pitts (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, Brenda, Beth Chang, John Davis, Jacquie DeBrine, Joyce Elsenheimer, Ray Freyn, Betsy Goodwin, Katy Greenlaw, Janet Haigh, Bill Hassler, Bobby Haurand, Lynn Huber, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Katelyn, Barbara Denton Knight, Samantha Knight, Jessica Locey, Karen Lupa, Jennifer Mahnke, Courtney Marr, James McFarlane, Richard Menzel, Jim Murray, Denise Nash, Rev. Dick Otterness, Tammy Marro Palmer, Ron Pieters, Michaela Raes, Joanne Rockwell, Kathy Rynders, Andrew Stephens, Jan Taylor, Rev. Eric Titus, Charlie Tolson, Paul W., Deborah Wilder & family

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, Marta Lydia & Pastor Ricardo, 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, Patricia Nash, 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, Sandy McMenamin, 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.





# Blanket Sunday, Feb 14th

Support this 25+ year tradition of buying rescue blankets. Buy one or more. Envelopes are located across from Church office.

Church World  
Services



**A CWS BLANKET | \$10**

“ I have just received a blanket for my grandson, who is autistic, and he absolutely loves it. Thank you for all that you have done! ”

- KRIS, WASHINGTON STATE



## FEBRUARY 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 7 pm Fellowship Zoom	2 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed. Zoom	3 10 am Mission/Social Concerns Zoom 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	4 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	5	6
7 9 am Sunday School	8 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	9 7 pm Worship	10 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	11 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	12	13
14 <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>Blanket Sunday</b> 2 Cents a Meal containers available	15 President's Day Office Closed VBS Day 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	16 <b>SPIRE DEADLINE</b>	17 Ash Wednesday Interactive Worship 1:30 pm Circle 6:30 pm Property	18 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	19	20
21 9 am Sunday School	22 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 4:30 pm CTNS	23 10 am Book Study 7 pm Session	24 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	25 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	26	27
28 9 am Sunday School						



# MARCH 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 7 pm Fellowship Zoom	2 10 am Book Study 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed. Zoom	3 10 am Mission/Social Concerns Zoom 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	4 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	5 World Day of Prayer	6
7 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School	8 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	9 10 am Book Study 6-9 pm King's Daughters FH 7 pm Worship	10 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	11 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School	15 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	16 10 am Book Study <b>SPIRE DEADLINE</b>	17 1:30 pm Circle 4 pm Visio Divina 6:30 pm Property 7 pm Finance	18 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	19	20
21 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School	22 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 4:30 pm CTNS	23 10 am Book Study 7 pm Session	24 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	25 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	26	27
28 Palm/Passion Sunday 9 am Sunday School	29 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	30 10 am Book Study	31 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom			