

Let us sit still long enough,  
be quiet long enough, pay  
attention long enough to  
see God all around us, to  
notice that the world is  
three-dimensional, and that  
God is already here.

# WESTERN SPIRE

## JUNE 2024

Recently, one of the lingering issues in my mind has been the work of the Holy Spirit, more specifically a revival of the church by the Holy Spirit. I have preached on the theme of the Holy Spirit for two Sundays and probably I will preach on it again on Trinity Sunday. I thank God that I have found a great article from the Presbyterian online magazine written by a pastor who has come up with his own conclusion after his struggle on the same topic. I am very encouraged by his article, and I can't say it any better than him, so I want to share it with you here.

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### **“Pastoring in a secular age: Confessions of a recovering deist”**

- Andy Kadzban (pastor of Wyckoff Reformed Church)

A sense of dissonance crept in during my first few years as a pastor. It wasn't that I didn't feel called to this place or vocation. It wasn't that anything had happened or gone wrong. Things were going well. I felt loved and encouraged by my congregation, like I was trusted.

There were exciting things happening, too. A few years in we had joined a denominational process for personal and congregational transformation, and we were experiencing some of it. After decades of slow decline, we had been presented with a decision: innovation or slow death. To their credit, the church chose innovation, and we set off learning about operational vs. adaptive challenges, managing congregational anxiety, and how to generate and sustain creative tension in our system. The work has been challenging in a good way. The congregation loved me and gave me glowing performance evaluations.

But I couldn't shake the feeling that I was failing as their pastor. I thought that what I was feeling was the conflict of paradigms. During seminary, I worked with pastoral mentors who had been deeply influenced by Eugene Peterson's work. By the time I was heading off to accept my first call, I knew that this was the kind of pastor I wanted to be. I wanted to be the unbusy, contemplative pastor. I was intent on working the angles — paying attention to God in Scripture, prayer, and spiritual direction with and on behalf of my congregation.

But I kept getting sucked into what Peterson had described as “pastoral shopkeeping.” In the introduction to his book *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*, Peterson expressed his frustration that so many pastors were abandoning their post — not to leave their churches, but to take up the concerns of a shopkeeper:

“How to keep the customers happy, how to lure customers away from competitors down the street, how to package the goods so that the customers will lay out more money.” Thirty-six years later, we're still borrowing our best practices from entrepreneurs and business leaders — now also prizing innovation, iteration, creativity, and hustle.

I thought the dissonance I felt was the pull between these two paradigms. I was intellectually and theologically convinced of Peterson's vision of pastoring, but I couldn't seem to do it. I was frustrated with the congregation for their expectations and demands, but even more so with myself for failing time and time again to choose the important over the urgent. I was good at administration, and I chased their affirmation. Facing these challenges and innovating felt like exciting and vital work.

I found myself spending little time doing anything that looked like Eugene's pastoral vision. I thought the problem was my job description. I thought I was stuck between two conflicting paradigms. I was about to find out the problem went far deeper.

The dissonance had grown so loud during the pandemic that I enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry cohort through the Eugene Peterson Center for Christian Imagination, hoping to finally figure this out or exorcise Eugene's ghost from my pastoral imagination. One day, a yellow book that I purchased a few years earlier but had never read caught my eye. The book was *Faith Formation in A Secular Age* by Andrew Root.

I skimmed the introduction, completely engrossed. Root told the story of being invited to speak at a conference to address the rise of the "nones" — shorthand for the religiously unaffiliated — and how to respond, especially as it related to youth. There was concern about Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) and the growing number of people who consider themselves "spiritual but not religious." Root was speaking my language. Here was someone who was an authority on all these topics, who was promising analysis based on Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age* and was going to tell me what to do about all of this. I wanted to go to the conference.

Root, though, was ill at ease.

Something struck *him* in the conversation that, in turn, left me dead in my tracks: never once had they talked about God. They had discussed how faith was under attack, the need to form lasting faith in the church's youth, how to save the church, and yet they had done so without any reference to God. Root realized that they had taken sociological descriptions of a problem (MTD and "nones") and begun to seek out sociological solutions.

They were "unwittingly exchanging the divine action of the Holy Spirit for pragmatic strategies that could help us keep youth and save the institutional church," Root wrote in *Faith Formation*. Root began to wonder: how had they gotten here and what hope would they have if they continued to bracket God out of the conversation?

Something clicked for me: this is where I had missed the turn. In *A Secular Age*, Charles Taylor suggests that belief in God is now contestable, not because naturalist explanations cured us of our ignorance, but because we developed ways to account for meaning, significance, morality, and what it means to be a "self" in ways that no longer require any appeal to the divine. These new options have the combined effect of drawing in our horizons, flattening the world. We now live in what Taylor calls the "immanent frame": the world is a closed system that isn't influenced or dependent upon anything outside of itself. It is now possible to imagine and live as though God does not exist. I knew all this jargon, and I was convinced by it. I thought it was the correct diagnosis, making sense of our cultural moment, the reason for the church's decline, and the need to adapt and innovate in this new context. The problem was I didn't need God to think any of this.

I understood and accepted Taylor's description and diagnosis regarding our secular age and life in the immanent frame, but in response, I had taken up sociological tools to address a sociological description of the problem. I knew our church needed to embrace change in a changing world, and we borrowed the best tools Harvard Business Review and Silicon Valley had to offer. There is nothing wrong with any of these tools, but what hope did we have if we, too, left God out of the conversation? If they placed us in a story where we and our creativity were our only hope? By jockeying to posture the church as the best option among many for finding meaning and purpose in a world void of transcendence, I had conceded God in the conversation.

I didn't realize the degree to which I had accepted the assumptions of the age while reacting against some of its conclusions. I suddenly had this new vision of myself standing in the flat world, gesturing wildly at the ceiling, trying to convince people there is life in three dimensions.

No wonder I felt such dissonance. The problem wasn't the conflict of paradigms or the content of my job description. The problem was that I was pastoring as a functional deist.

As difficult as that was to face, I realized something else. What had drawn me to Eugene Peterson wasn't a rival paradigm for what it means to be a pastor. It wasn't a different set of techniques that might prove more effective. Peterson had seen what Taylor described, even if he lacked taxonomy. He saw the flat lives of those he lived beside in the suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland. He saw the turn to consumerism and utilitarianism in the absence of transcendence. He saw the way pastors, in the fragilization of late modernity, had lost any sense of the dignity of their profession and turned to other professions to guide and justify their work. He saw it all, but **his solution was something I hadn't seen; live like God exists.**

Let's be clear: there is no going back to the enchanted worldview of the Middle Ages. The immanent frame isn't something we are able to simply opt in or out of. Let's also be clear that the solution to our reductive materialism isn't an equally reductive dualism that rejects the material in favor of a higher spiritual plane. So, what could it mean to live like God exists?

If you read Charles Taylor carefully, you'll see that the immanent frame does not *necessarily* close us off from transcendence. Taylor writes, quite succinctly: "The immanent frame permits closure without demanding it." And the roof isn't nearly as closed-off as we often think. We don't have to go far to notice the cracks in the ceiling. While belief in God is increasingly contestable, so, too, is disbelief — even doubters are haunted by faith. We are struck at times by a sense of excess of things that we cannot explain. We find ourselves thinking that there must be something *more*. Andrew Root traces the proliferation of what he calls "secular mysticisms", what Taylor called "immanent spiritualities," which seek to fill these voids without relying on transcendence. There are plenty of cracks in the ceiling if we're willing to take notice and let the light in.

By living like God exists, Eugene Peterson was inviting me to attend to something the poets and mystics have long known: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God," to quote one of his favorite poets, Gerard Manley Hopkins. I didn't need new or more effective techniques or paradigms. I needed new eyes to see God working right here, right now.

Eugene wasn't anxiously trying to make God show up or do something. He wasn't trying to convince us that God was really there or that worship was useful for giving life meaning and purpose. He was inviting us to sit still long enough, be quiet long enough, pay attention long enough to see God all around us, to notice that the world was actually three-dimensional, and that God was already here.

This picture has begun to shape my imagination for what it means for me to be a pastor. I want this to be true of me, too. I want to awaken to a living reality of God. Not because it will “work” as a technique to establish a “successful congregation,” but because my own heart yearns for communion with the Triune God. I want to live in three dimensions, and I want to cultivate space as a pastor for people to imagine and see something more. I want to see my congregation not for what I can do with them, or what they can do for me, not as resources to be used or problems to be solved, but as saints — those for whom Christ died and in whom God is always at work.

I didn’t need more information. I didn’t need better techniques. What I have experienced, as best as I can tell, is a renewal of my imagination. I needed a different picture, a better story, to make sense of who I am and what I’m doing as a pastor.

It’s hard for me to articulate exactly what has changed in the two years since this realization. In some ways, it isn’t much at all. It’s not that I’m doing anything different, but I’m doing almost everything *differently*. One of the biggest changes I’ve noticed is gratitude and awe, noticing the story of God unfolding beneath the surface of people’s lives in ways I never noticed before.

I spent so long trying to whip these people into something God could use. I spent so long trying to get them to want what I wanted for them. I spent so long trying to use them to make myself look better (that one hurts to admit). But as I have stopped to simply look, slowing down to take the time to pay attention, what strikes me is the abundance of God’s presence and work already going on. I no longer see them for what they aren’t doing, but for all that God is doing in them. I have missed so much over these 10 years. Now I am dumbfounded by the act of baking brownies for a potluck, flabbergasted when someone arrives 30 minutes early to make coffee for the rest of us, struck dumb when a dozen people show up to Bible study. I have begun to catch sight of the holiness of this congregation. Pastor, take off your shoes, this is holy ground on which you stand!

Pastoring is still not without its difficulties. We still bang our heads on the ceiling of the immanent frame often. Days still go by when God is an afterthought to my work. I am a long way from pastoring full-time in three dimensions, but I’m on my way. I want to live and pastor as though God actually exists. I want to see beneath the surface of things. I want to see things whole, not in fragments and pieces. I want to continue to renew my pastoral imagination.

**Eugene Peterson once wrote: “The great masters of the imagination ... connect the visible and the invisible, the this with the that. They assist us in seeing what is around us all the time but which we regularly overlook. With their help, we see it not as commonplace but as awesome, not as banal but as wondrous. For this reason, the imagination is one of the essential ministries in nurturing the life of faith. For faith is not a leap out of the everyday but a plunge into its depths.”**

What I’ve learned is all these techniques and strategies and paradigms keep me on the surface. If I’m going to be a pastor in this secular age, I need to plunge into those depths.

# Youth Led Worship Service

June 2, 2024

10am Worship Service

Worship can happen when we sing, when we pray, and when we show love to others. Every day we can praise God in some way.



## From the Fellowship Team

### SAVE These Dates:

June 30<sup>th</sup>: Fellowship will host our "5th Sunday" potluck. We are asking members to bring something "light" such as salads, sides, or desserts for the summer season. There will be a signup sheet outside Fellowship Hall.

Sept. 22: Fellowship will host our "welcome back to church" picnic.

Oct. 20th will be our annual "Western Horizons" Sunday when we honor our members who have served 50+ years.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have a "Progressive Dinner". Anyone who is interested in hosting or preparing one of the courses, please contact a team member.

# **SEMI-URGENT!!**

The Fellowship Team is looking for someone to be chairperson starting next year.

If you or someone you know is interested in an awarding, fun, yet challenging position with a great team, please contact a member of the Fellowship Team:

Norm Underwood, Sue Pringle, Ray Marr, Roxanne Dobson, Val or Terry Gendron or Jan Taylor.

Thank you.

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Please join us for a celebration of love, Janet and Paul Manktelow's 50th wedding anniversary. The reception will be held on June 29th from 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thank you,  
Sue Pringle  
cell phone: 315-945-4654

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Thank you for all the prayers. The medication is successfully doing its job. The cardiologist said I will need to continue medication for the foreseeable future, but I don't go back for 6 months. It is such a blessing to be part of a church family that prays for you and asks how you are doing. Again, thank you for the prayers.

Irene Fadden



Canal Town Days 2024  
 September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>



What would you think of baking cookies – oatmeal raisin and chocolate chip?

We could sell them with a drink and showcase the missions of the church – including Mission Projects, Prayer and Worship Opportunities, Scouts’ Use of Building, VBS, etc.

We can make, bake, and wrap the cookies at church. There are recipes to use to make large chewy cookies. I will try the recipes out at home to find ones that work well. We’ll make a list of ingredients needed. We’ll make a list of implements we need including ¼ cup cookie or ice cream scoops. We’ll need all the help we can get, so watch for the signup lists that will be posted in September. If you’d like to be part of the planning team, please let me know.

Irene Fadden ([faddenirene@gmail.com](mailto:faddenirene@gmail.com))

Thank you to all who gave to **the Food Cupboard** in the Lions’ Food Drive. It filled the shelves, but more is always needed. The Food Cupboard always needs cereal, pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly, loaves of bread, and fruit, in cans or individual cups. The Mission and Social Concerns Team

**WEEKEND WELLNESS**

**FUNDING**



Looking towards the new school year, the Food Pantry will again be doing Weekend Wellness. This is a very expensive project. If you are part of an organization that has funds for community missions, please consider having the group make a donation to the Palmyra-Macedon-Farmington Food Pantry.



# WPC Spring Rummage Sale



**Thank You** if you donated items.

**Thank You** if you setup or tore down.

**Thank You** if you worked the sale.

**Thank You** if you purchased items.

**Thank You** all for your support.

*A Rummage Sale is Not a one-person task, so this sale was Positively Successful because of YOU.*

*Thank You all again!*

*~Jody and the Women's Association*

*Thank you, Thank you, Thank you,*

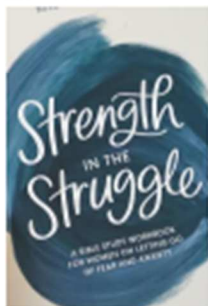
*Thank you, Thank YOU*

## Women's Circle – *the last chapter*

Here are some questions for you to ask yourself:

- What makes up your spiritual house?
- What things are important to during your time of worship?
- How might our faith be different if we worshiped in a tabernacle, or a community center?
- You are your own little church. How do you reflect God's grace?
- As your spirituality matures, what kind of weighty matters move you?

These are heavy topics. In a magical way, the ladies that gathered opened their hearts and shared their thoughts as we evaluated how to answer these questions. As God is the builder of everything, we attempted to see how we reflect and honor God's work within us and around us. This was the final lesson in our Bible study of Hebrews from "Cloud of Witnesses". We examined the *household of faith that reminds us of our supportive home with each other in God.*



We spoke of what study we will use come September. We will be ordering "Strength in the Struggle – A Bible study workbook for women on letting go of fear and anxiety" by Lauren Ibach.

We will be asking the ladies to pay for their own book come September.

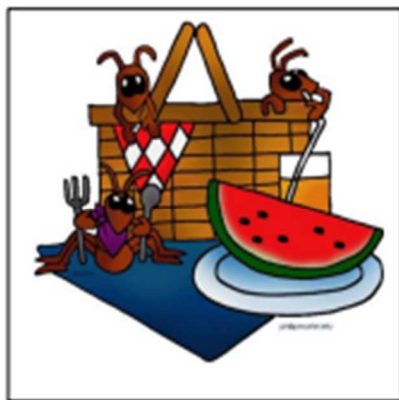


**Next month we gather at Aquaduct park for a dish-to-pass picnic.**

Mark your calendar:

Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at noon

Circle will supply beverage and table service





### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 7	Linda Pulcini
June 7	David Squier
June 7	Ray Marr
June 11	Daniel Budziszewski
June 13	Linda Wunder
June 21	Bill Hassler
June 26	Evan Mitchell
June 28	Chris Mitchell
June 29	Nancy Talma

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 12	Eric & Edie Chapman
June 21	Lloyd & Joan Durfey
June 22	Frank & Beverly Koeberle
June 22	Paul & Janet Manktelow
June 27	Dave & Jan Taylor

**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!**

## **The team minutes received for May include:**

WPC Christian Education Team

Minutes May 14, 2024

Building Faith, Family, and Fellowship. WPC nurtures spiritual growth, joyful fellowship, meaningful community, and global involvement: worshiping and serving God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Present: Jody Pruitt, Emily Hunt, Cim McFarlane, Pastor Hodong

In Spirit: Ellen Avery

### **Upcoming Events:**

May 22- Meditation Class

June 2- Sunday School Led Service/Last Day of Sunday School

July 29-August 2- VBS

### **Continuing and New Business**

**Spring Youth Service-** June 2-Cim shared the preparations are up and running. Kelly taught the group how to sign *Jesus Loves Me* and this will be incorporated into the service. Jacob is working hard on the music. Nella and David are practicing their pieces diligently. There will be 2 hymns for the service because there are a lot of youth musical pieces.

**Toddler Time-** Cim reported that 19 children came to the 5/14 Toddler Time. This was the last Toddler Time for the summer. Rachel and Cim talked about plans for the fall.

The work on the bathrooms downstairs is underway. Thank you to the property team for heading this up. Cim shared that Missy Perry is meeting with Gary LaBerge soon, she has all of Gary's research about the daycare/wrap around care needs.

**Bible Presentation-** Cim ordered the Bible for Drew. We will present Drew the Bible at the spring youth service.

**May Wellness Theme-** We had a great turn out to our first two events. 8 people attended the first aid class and 15 attended the healthy eating class. A big thank you to Pat Dlugosh and Cortney Underwood for leading the classes. We are looking forward to our last class on May 22.

**VBS-Cave Quest -** Cim and Lisa P met. Kona Ice is booked for Wednesday's snack. Cim worked with PK Design to make leader tee shirts. Randy will lead the Bible Story Center, Emily will lead the Arts and Crafts, Lisa and Cim will lead worship, Logan is checking his schedule to see if he can be the games leader. Cim would like to serve lunch each day. Cim will have a napkin and paper plate drive this year.

**Camp Whitman Board-** Cim shared that there is a need for nurses and a health leader/head nurse. Please send any possible candidates their way. The Presbytery Meeting will be held at camp next week.

**Canal Town Days-** Emily shared the idea to sell cookies at Canal Town Days. Jody gave a great idea about using straw or hay bales to set up a maze- each turn can have a poster about the missions and events in our church. Emily will take this idea to Session.

**Pillars-** Pastor Hodong mentioned an idea about having a banner or sign to hang on the pillars out front for VBS.

We talked about the cleanliness upstairs and discussed the possibility of the scouts doing some cleaning as a service project.

**Nursery-** Cim mentioned that she had several families inquire about a nursery during worship. Pastor Hodong agrees. We discussed the possibility of hiring someone to do it, Jody is willing to volunteer, but would like 3-4 other rotating volunteers. We would need to clean and reorganize.

We also talked about going through the CTNS materials left in the large classroom- this is a HUGE undertaking. We would need bins, a lot of time. This does need to happen, just needs to be the right time.

**Next meeting:** June 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Hunt

## Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

**Present:** Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Patti Dlugosh, Linda Pulcini, Sandy Betts

**In Support:** Sara Bush

### Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer

**Old Business:**

1. **Approval of last month's minutes & corrections** Motion: Sandy M. and Second: Sandy B.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status— Sandy M. —

Apr-24	Deacons Checking Account
<b>Initial balance</b>	\$1,232.29
Additions	\$27.00
Deductions	
<b>Ending balance</b>	\$1,259.29

Description of Additions: *offertory deposit*

Description of Subtractions:

- a. Balances
3. Focus on modifying the meeting to shorten it.
  - a. Feedback from team and congregation
  - b. Difficult or easy to maintain?
4. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards -
5. Communion – on April 21<sup>st</sup>
  - a. Prepared 118 for Easter, 79 served.
  - b. More pita is needed, Juice~~ Patty D. to purchase. She added 4 more homemade loaves to freezer.
  - c. Who can assist in set-up on the 21<sup>st</sup>? Prep for 70 folks most of committee available, not Randy.
  - d. Lid taken to Lock 60 Jewelry shop at West Wayne Plaza #0793 – Picked up lid after repair.
6. Update of Prayer concerns: Define where extra outreach is needed / adds, removals etc.
  - a. Move the notation "May you pray also for ...." to the lower area of the prayer list -Sandy M.
  - b. Added a few more names to the list.
7. Group Prayer – Lord, hear our prayers.
8. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts - visits with special meaningful moments of faith.

2024					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	7	13	63	41	1/14/24
February	17	16	60	43	2/18/24
March	22	16	76	79	3/31/24
April					4/21/24
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>163</b>	

S.S. created cards  
28 S.S. created cards  
21 Easter Lily Deliveries

9. Special Needs cards & Lily Delivery
  - a. Generate list of who to receive flowers and who to deliver.... Initiated after meeting.
  - b. Special Care Mailings Current Roster of 24
10. Monthly Notes: Bible *Matthew 28:8* " So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word."

**New Business:**

- Lily Delivery
- Change meeting time to 10:30 due to men's meeting at 9-10 on same day going forward.

Meeting closed with prayer.

**Next meeting Tuesday 5/7/2024 @ 10:30am**

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

# FELLOWSHIP MEETING

5/6/24

Present: Ray Marr, Jan Taylor, Sue Pringle, Norm Underwood

Excused: Roxanne Dobson, Val, and Terry Gendron

Recap of Game Night: Seemed very well received, everyone there had positive comments. Some especially liked the bean bag games that Jan brought. May need a better way to ID everyone's pizza.

Jan suggested we look into possibly having a potluck highlighting different cultures. Examples: having signups for Asian, African, Native American, etc. People pick and prepare dishes from different cultures.

The Fellowship Team is hosting coffee hour on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with truffles.

June 30th will have "5th Sunday" potluck. Jan will make a signup sheet for people to bring salads, sides, or desserts. This will be a "light" meal for the summer.

The following dates are confirmed:

WPC Picnic - 9/22

Western Horizons Sunday 10/20. When we recognize members of 50+ years' service.

Progressive Dinner - Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>: more information to follow.

Looking for a chairperson for next year.

Next meeting 2:00 pm June 3rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Underwood

## Property Ministry Team - Minutes

Present: Phil Opdycke, James McFarlane

The meeting opened with a prayer at 6:35 pm by Phil.

### Old Business

1. Matt Van Parys was checking the insulation, and the circulation pump was leaking nearly 30 gallons a week.
2. The bearings and seals have been replaced and everything works fine.
3. Emcor will come back in the summer and replace some air breathers which will allow air to get out.
4. The kitchen heater is not working so we are looking into this.
5. 2 chimney covers to be put on.
6. Recouple the lightening cables.
7. Clean & flex seal the gutters.

### New Business

1. More things need to be moved from the lower bathroom.
2. Need to paint in the hall.
3. Put Christmas plaques on the wall to help spruce the room up.
4. Need to purchase a charging station.
5. The yard needs to be raked. Will contact Nicole Kessler.
6. Swap the cable on HoDong's earpiece to reduce snapping.
7. Both new computers are working fine. So much faster than the old ones.
8. Bill Bush is working on a new website with a new look.
9. Looking into a new casting device for the fellowship tv.
10. Discussed a wish list for the toddler room, pastor, teleprompter, organ camera and monitor.  
Considering moving from Facebook to YouTube.
11. Considering working on updating some of our existing equipment.
12. Future work on covering the cable through the walls.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Opdycke

Next Meeting: Currently scheduled for 05/15/24 at 6:30 PM



The stated meeting of the session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend HoDong Hwang with prayer in Fellowship Hall at 7:00PM.

**6 Present:** Randy Kennard, Philip Opdycke, Norman Underwood, Courtney Marr, Emily Hunt, Janet Manktelow

**1 via ZOOM:** Irene Fadden

**1 Excused:** Alicia Lynch

**0 Absent**

**A quorum was present.**

The meeting started with the Lighting of the Christ Candle.

- Motion made by Philip Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the agenda.

Emily Hunt shared a devotion.

**Clerks Report**

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the March session meeting with a correction to the Fellowship Ministry Team report.

**Financial Secretary’s Report**

		February 2024		
	<u>Current</u> <u>Month</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD% of</u> <u>Budget</u>
Total Receipts	\$6,341	\$37,609	\$173,285	21.70%
Total Expenditures	\$9,290	\$8,849	\$185,198	9.79%
Net Receipts/Expend	\$(2,949)	\$19,470	\$(11,913)	

The head of finance was not present due to illness, so we did not vote on this report. We will vote at the next meeting.

**Business of the Church**

- Motion made by Mission Ministry Team and carried to apply for a Mission grant through Presbytery for \$3,000 for the Good Neighbor Fund.

**Men’s Group-** the first men’s group will meet on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May from 9:00 – 10:15AM. Steve Ellis and Norm Underwood will lead the group.

## **Western PC forum #1**

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the morning worship service there will be a forum with the theme "When a Loved One Dies". This will be led by Rosemary Guchone who is an educator at The Center for Hope and Healing.

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to pay Rosemary an honorarium of \$150.00.

## **Ministry Team Reports**

**Worship Ministry Team** – we will continue to work with the new florist. Mr. Rogers Night celebration was a great success. They are looking into purchasing new hymnals, thinking of something to do to celebrate the National Day of Prayer on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Fellowship Ministry Team** – will meet on the coming Friday. Game Night will be April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Deacons Ministry Team** – will continue to deliver lilies, working on final adjustments to the prayer list.

**Mission Ministry Team** – They collected \$336.00 from the Love Loaves; The Pal-Mac Lions Club is holding a drive-up food drive for our food cupboard on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**CE Ministry Team** – the Easter bunny breakfast was very successful. The confirmation class will join the congregation on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Service will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Property Ministry Team** –

● Motion made by Property Ministry Team and carried to allow the Pal-Mac Select choir to use the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Presbytery** - Presbytery is collecting Hygiene Kits.

Next month – devotions – Phil

Meeting May 7<sup>th</sup>

- Motion made by Philip Opdycke seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 8:00PM.

Janet Manktelow

Clerk

The special meeting of the session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend HoDong Hwang in the church parlors at 11:30AM. The meeting was opened with prayer.

**7 Present:** Alicia Lynch, Emily Hunt, Norman Underwood, Philip Opdycke, Courtney Marr, Randy Kennard, Janet Manktelow

**1 Excused:** Irene Fadden

**1 Guest:** Ashley Powers

**A quorum was present.**

The purpose of this meeting was for session to meet with the confirmands and listen to their Statements of Faith.

David Powers, Avery Hunt, and Nella McFarlane all read their statements of faith that they worked on with their mentors. The statements were amazing. They shared about kindness and how the church is a safe place. The church is so blessed to have these wonderful young people in our congregation. They will be presented to the congregation at the morning worship service, in which they will participate on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Motion made by Philip Opdycke seconded and carried to welcome David, Nella, and Avery into membership of the church.

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 11:45AM.

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Clerk

Worship Meeting April 9, 2024

Present: Joan, Alicia, Sue

Excused: Linda, MaryBeth, Sharon, Carol

Upcoming Events:

April 13- Fellowship Game Night at 5:30 pm

April 21- Communion Sunday

April 28- Confirmations Sunday

Confirmation- 3 bouquets of flowers for mentors to give the kids.

Flowers- Thanks to Sue for all her hard work with finding a florist and setting up the flowers. A big thank you to Carol for collecting money for the Easter Lilies.

\*Flower feedback- Positive feedback- lilies were beautiful.

Glory to God Hymnals-

\*Thoughts on hymns- Positive feedback on the hymns we have been singing.

\*Sue will count how many new hymnals we will need.

\*Fundraising ideas- think of ways we can raise some of the money (chicken BBQ, lunch, ask people to pay for a hymnal)

National Day of Prayer- May 2

We will have the church open for a few hours.

May 2 4-6 HoDong will make prayer cards.

Alicia and Sue will host.

People will get a prayer leaf and birds for

April 21 and April 28

Joan will make a tree with found sticks.

Envelopes for offering- Alicia ordered some offering envelopes and can order some more on Amazon. These will go on the hutch and the front door. We will make announcements in the bulletin for a month then once a month.

We will need a substitute pastor for first Sundays in June (June 2 is all set because the kids will lead us in worship.)



## Our Prayer Concerns (updated May 22, 2024)

### Grieving:

Family & Friends of James Bush (requested by the Deacons)

Family & Friends of Kathleen Dougherty (Ellen Avery's sister- requested by the Deacons)

Family & Friends of Joyce Roberts (requested by Rena Haigh)

Family & Friends of Connie D'Amato (requested by Ray & Sharon Marr)

### Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Adam Hill, Sarah Jagger, Joe Krebbeks, Quintyn McLeod, Josh Polle

### Please pray for those of our congregation with immediate concerns:

Ellen Avery, Gene Bassage, Sandy Campbell, Tracy D'Arduini & Linda Pulcini, Irene Fadden, Pam Gnagy, Tricia Owen, Bob Pringle & Jan Semans

### Congregation members needing continued prayers:

Wes Barager, Joan Durfey, Frank Lawrence, Cim McFarlane, Wilma Redman, David Squier, and Fran Strom

### Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton

### Others for whom prayers have been requested:

Dave Burley, Joyce Clark, Ed Cole, Ann Davis, Ted & Nancy Elsenheimer, Jameson Gardner, Jonathan Groff, Janet Haigh, Linda Hanna, Russell Harris, Bobby & Eileen Haurand, Nancy Hovermale, Gary Lashway, Deb Merla, Russ Millspaw, Karley Mott, Clem Olson, Jessica Locey Otto, Linda Ring, Mary Ellen Stanziano, Frank Surace, Barbara Watson, Michelle Weir, Melissa Dantz Zerbel

### May your prayers go out to:

All caregivers; All those affected by natural disasters; All those who have no one to pray for them; All victims of violence, hatred and hunger; Please pray for those that wish to remain anonymous

*Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless renewal has been requested.*

Prayers of Intercession are offered each day by our Deacons. To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Randy Kennard, chair of Deacons, Sandy McMenamin, or Kathy in the Church office.



# JUNE 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
						1
2 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Last day of Sunday School 10 am youth led worship service	3 2 pm Fellowship	4 9 am Men's Group 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	5	6 10 am Mission/ Social Concerns	7	8 4-6 pm Pipe Organ "Walk Thru"
9 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10 am worship service Sister Barbara Moore preaching	10	11 10:30 am Deacons 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Christian Ed.	12 Noon Circle Picnic Aqueduct Park 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	13	14	15
16 <b>Father's Day Communion &amp; Cereal Sunday</b> 10 am worship service	17	18 <b>SPIRE DEADLINE</b> 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	19 6:30 pm Property	20	21	22
23 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10 am worship service	24	25 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	26	27	28 4 pm memorial service for Jim Bush	29 10 am to 6 pm FH 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party Janet & Paul Manktelow
30 <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10 am worship service <b>Potluck Luncheon</b>						



# JULY 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm 2 pm Fellowship	2 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm 9 am Men's Group 10:30 am Deacons 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	3 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6 10 am to 6 pm FH Baby Shower Cherokee Lannon
7 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service	8	9 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	10 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	11	12	13
14 Communion & Cereal Sunday 10 am worship service	15	16 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	17 6:30 pm Property	18	19	20
21 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service	22	23 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	24	25	26	27
28 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service	29 9-11:30 am VBS	30 9-11:30 am VBS 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	31 9-11:30 am VBS	August 1 9-11:30 am VBS	August 2 9-11:30 am VBS	August 3