



WESTERN SPIRE

MARCH 2021

“But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

~Romans 8:25

People of God at WPC,

One year ago, this March 13th, the session of our congregation made the decision to suspend in-person worship services. The pandemic was escalating at a rate that made panic rampant. That afternoon, I waited for three hours at Wal-Mart for a grocery order that never came. That Sunday, the 15th, we had our first virtual worship service (which was, admittedly, much rougher than I had hoped it would be).

And you know how the rest goes.

There isn't much to say in the face of all we have lost in the past year. The connection, the community, the sense of stability and steadiness... the more than 500,000 lives. It all feels too much to bear at times.

Yet we have come through, and we are back in a season of Lent that reminds us of God's continued presence with us, first in the person of Jesus, and then through the Holy Spirit that binds us.

So I want, this month, to simply acknowledge - the grief... the pain... the separation... the loneliness... the anxiety... the uncertainty... the worry...

God holds all of this, and more. God holds all of us, and more. God holds.

And I offer you this prayer, from the *Book of Common Worship*.

God of compassion, you have given us Jesus Christ, the great physician, who made the broken whole and healed the sick. Touch our wounds, relieve our hurts, and restore us to wholeness of life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank God for a love like that.

In Christ's love,

~Pastor Kyle

Notes from Session

Session continues to do the work of the church. At our January meeting we approved holding the Annual congregational Meeting on February 21st. This meeting was a hybrid meeting in person and on Zoom. We spent a good deal of time discussing the 2021 budget. We worked on ideas to lower the deficit. After much discussion, the budget was passed. You can see the budget in the Annual Report.

Kyle continues to stay busy. He has in person visits, phone conversations and attempted phone conversations with our church family. He moderates the East Palmyra Church session meetings and has Camp Whitman board meetings each month. The Pal-Mac Clergy Council has been started again. It is great to have this community connection.

At February's meeting, property brought a proposal from CTNS to remove one wall in the upstairs rooms to allow for a larger class. This was approved if CTNS gets the number of students to justify it. We will wait until late summer to make the final decision.

The annual meeting went off without a hitch. We had 38 people voting. This was not a quorum which was expected. We reached out to Presbytery before the meeting to see how to handle this. They told us to go ahead and do our business as usual and then we can ratify it at the next congregational meeting that has a quorum. Things certainly are different in this time of pandemic!

Janet Manktelow



Is WPC a Hunger Action Congregation?

The purpose of the Hunger Action Congregation process is to acknowledge the faithful work of Presbyterians around the country who are responding to the biblical call to help alleviate hunger and end its causes. Through stories and encouragement, we wish to be mutually inspired to pursue broader and more justice-oriented ministries.

WPC has fed the hungry for many years. It is what we do. Let's see if we can continue what we have done in the past and try some new ways to minister to those who are hungry and commit to address its root causes.

- Weekend Wellness
- Two Cents A Meal
- Summer lunch at the library
- ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK
- Cereal Sundays
- Raised Bed Gardens

Yours is a **Hunger Action Congregation** **if** you are doing an activity in one or more of six areas. For congregations that are doing one or more activity in all six areas, you can be a **Certified Hunger Action Congregation**. **All** of the Hunger Action Congregations will be celebrated on October 16, 2021, World Food Day.

Ending Hunger and Its Causes: Six Areas:

- **Hunger Alleviation:** providing and/or sharing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions
- **Development assistance:** addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development
- **Hunger Education:** learning about systemic causes of hunger, leading towards faithful action that is informed and directed by directly affected people and partners
- **Lifestyle Integrity:** adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all of God's creation
- **Corporate and Public Policy Witness:** advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation
- **Worship:** incorporating prayer, education, and preaching about ending hunger and its causes into worship

During Lent, WPC is participating the 2 cents-a-meal program. If a person donated 2 cents a meal for 365 days for 3 meals a day, it would be \$21.90. In 2020, almost \$11,000 was given to Food Pantries in the Presbytery through 2 cents a meal program.

WPC is planning to start a **community garden** with the other churches in the area. The garden will provide fresh vegetables to the Food Pantry. More will be known about the specifics of the community garden by mid-March.

WPC hopes the churches in the Palmyra-Macedon-Farmington Area will join together to participate in the **CROP Walk**. Watch for more information.

Got other ideas? Contact one of the Mission and Social Concerns Team.



MEMBERSHIP

Why Become a Member?

Becoming a member helps to ensure that the legacy of Camp Whitman continues on and supports our mission. Membership in a Presbyterian congregation is not a requirement, but an understanding and respect of the values of the Presbyterian faith and the Camp Whitman mission is important. Membership is open to any person in agreement with these principles and values and who seeks to further this mission through their financial and volunteer support each year.

Membership Levels

Camp Whitman Supporters (\$25/year):

- Receive e-newsletter updates about Camp Whitman.
- Invitation to attend the annual Summer Picnic & Worship by the Lake event.
- Receive a 10% member discount for special fundraising events and camp store purchases.

Camp Whitman Companions (\$100/year):

- All benefits listed in the above Supporter category are included.
- Plus early member access for camp registrations and a 10% member discount on camp tuition for all children in the family or group home.
- Plus early member access for group and family rentals and a 10% member discount on all rental and program fees.
- Free passes to our Fall Fun Day.

Camp Whitman Partners (for organizations or businesses) (\$250/year):

- All benefits listed in the above Supporter category are included.
- Plus early member access for group and facility rentals and a 25% member discount on all rental and program fees.
- Benefits only apply to the organization/business. Individuals associated do not receive individual membership benefits.

Camp Whitman Patrons (\$500 or greater donation/year):

- All benefits listed in the Supporter and Companion categories are included.
- 2 Free Tickets to all Fundraising events.

www.CampWhitman.org/join



SUMMER 2021 REGISTRATION



Time to register for summer camp.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 4	Barbara Pieters
March 4	Ruth Dantz
March 5	Lou Callerame
March 11	Eric Chapman
March 19	Doris Chriswell
March 21	Cheyenne Lane
March 22	Sue Pringle
March 22	William Bush
March 22	Cassandra Hughes
March 26	Mary Beth LaBerge
March 27	Tricia Owen
March 29	Jacqueline DeBrine
March 30	Scott Bush
March 31	Walter Lester

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 17	Ronald & Barbara Pieters
March 21	William & Elaine Hassler

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 February 24, 2021)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Eileen Olson (requested by Esther Hargrave)

Family & Friends of Martha Leydi (requested by Randy Kennard)

Family & Friends of Patricia Nash (requested by the Deacons)

Family & Friends of Linda Breed (requested by Rochelle Morse)

Family & Friends of Carl Main (requested by Pastor Kyle)

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, Steve Hays, Lynn Huber, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Katelyn, Barbara Denton Knight, Samantha Knight, Elizabeth Lewis, Jessica Locey, Karen Lupa, Jennifer Mahnke, Iris McConnell, Richard Menzel, Jim Murray, Denise Nash, Rev. Dick Otterness, Tammy Marro Palmer, Ron Pieters, Joanne Rockwell, Kathy Rynders, Jonathan Santmyer, Delaney & Calvin Scheuerman, Andrew Stephens, Jan Taylor, Rev. Eric Titus, Charlie Tolson, Paul W., Connie West, Deborah Wilder & family, 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, 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.





MARCH 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	2 10 am Book Study 7 pm Christian Ed. Zoom	3 10 am Mission/Social Concerns Zoom 10 am Deacons FH 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	4 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	5 World Day of Prayer	6
7 3 rd 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 th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School	15 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	16 10 am Book Study SPIRE DEADLINE	17 1:30 pm Circle 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom 6:30 pm Property	18 6-7 pm CTNS Open House 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	19	20
21 5 th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School	22 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	23 10 am Book Study 7 pm Session	24 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom 4:30 pm CTNS	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			



APRIL 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1 Maundy Thursday 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Sunday No Sunday School	5 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 7 pm Fellowship	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 7 pm Worship SPIRE DEADLINE	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 Earth Day 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	23	24
25 4 th Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School	26 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 4:30 pm CTNS	27 7 pm Session	28 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	29 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	30	