



Wrestling with the Cross

Many Christians and non-Christians struggle with the cross. How could this tool of inhumane capital punishment be the central sign of our faith? How do we come to terms with a good God who let his Son die such a death? What did the cross accomplish anyway? If we are not asking these questions, then it is possible that we have become too comfortable with the cross and have forgotten its power.



As Paul writes in the first lines of his letter to the Corinthian Church:

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Jesus' disciples refused to hear Jesus talk about the cross that was ahead for him. Peter pulled Jesus aside and told him not to talk about it, not to walk down that road to the cross (Matthew 16:22-24). But Jesus gave Peter a strong rebuke. For Jesus knew it was his path and he wanted his disciples to understand that the path to life had to go through the cross.

During Lent, we are not going to deny the cross, but we are going to take it up and wrestle with it, looking at the ways others have understood it over the years and coming to a faithful understanding of our own.

In the book of Genesis, we read the story of Jacob returning home to face a brother whom he has wronged. On the way, Jacob spends the night wrestling with an opponent. In the morning, the opponent asks that Jacob let him go. Jacob refuses to let the opponent go until

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the opponent blesses him. The opponent blesses Jacob with a new name, "Israel, which means one who wrestles with God and humans and overcomes." Jacob named the place Peniel, which means, "face of God," for there in that place of wrestling, Jacob, now Israel, had seen the face of God (Genesis 32:22-32).



I believe in these forty days of wrestling, we too will see the face of God. Please, join me in the wrestling with the hard and holy cross of Jesus. I believe if we do, we will receive not rebuke, but blessing.

Your pastor and fellow wrestler,



Lent, Holy Week, & Easter: Wrestling with the Cross

During the Sundays of Lent, we will consider the atoning work of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and reign, seeking answers to the challenging question, "Why did Jesus have to die?" As if studying a multi-faceted gemstone, we must view this question from multiple angles to appreciate the true, complex beauty of God's plan.

March 1: God for Us

Communion/Food Bank Collection

- † Isaiah 53:4-11
- † John 3:1-17

March 8: God Against Evil

- † Isaiah 52:1-12
- † 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 15: In the Light

*The Rev. Kevin Cartee, Guest Preacher
Camp Fellowship Special Offering*

- † 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- † Ephesians 5:8-14
- † John 9:1-12

March 22: God Shows Us the Way

- † Matthew 16:21-26
- † Ephesians 2:1-10

March 29: God in Solidarity with Us

Palm Sunday/One Great Hour of Sharing

- † Isaiah 50:4-9a
- † Matthew 21:1-11

April 2: Seeing the Face of God on the Cross

Maundy Thursday

- † The Last Supper
- † Gethsemane
- † The Last Words

April 5: Resurrection in the Shadow of the Cross

Easter Sunday/Communion/Food Bank

- † Isaiah 25:6-9
- † Luke 24:13-48

The Cross & The Circle

The cross that graces our sanctuary is a Celtic cross—a cross with a circle that has roots in ancient Ireland. Some say the cross is superimposed over the circle, representing Christ conquering the pagan sun god. But we prefer to see the circle as a symbol of eternity that emphasizes the endlessness of God's love as shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The circle symbolizes the unending mystery of how, through the crucifixion and resurrection, Christ continues to offer the hope of salvation to the faithful forever.



Westminster Happenings

**Sunday
March 1**

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

God for Us

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Never doubt that you are a beloved child of God.

Boston College Student Mission Team arrives.

**Monday
March 2**

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

Lenten Chair Yoga (see page 9)

Stretch and strengthen in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group

Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday
March 3**

Presbyterian Women's Circle (see page 10)

Share fellowship and Bible study via the venue that works for you:

- In the Joe Gettys Room at 11:30 A.M.—bring your lunch
- Online at 7:00 P.M. via <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim>

Lessons will be taken from the 2025-2026 PW study guide, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Identity in Jesus Christ*.

**Wednesday
March 4**

Lenten Pilgrimage Worship & Luncheon (see page 9)

Gather at First Presbyterian-Greenwood for worship at 12:30 P.M.
Enjoy lunch before or after.

Better Together Wellness Group (see page 10)

Gather in the Joe Gettys Room at 5:15 P.M.

Family Night Supper: Welcome, Boston College Mission Team!

Come to the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 P.M. (see page 11).
Enjoy dinner and get to know these young people committed to service.

**Thursday
March 5**

Evening Study Group: Online (see page 9)

Link into <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim> at 7:00 P.M.
Pull your virtual chair up to the table of *The Last Supper*, by Willimon.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Saturday | **Mindful Meditation**
March 7 | Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Room.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Sunday | **God Against Evil**
March 8 | Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Remember that “God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.”

Stated Session Meeting
Gather in the Joe Gettys Room at 11:15 A.M.
Serve the Lord by attending to the business of the church.

Monday | **Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**
March 9 | Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

Lenten Chair Yoga
Stretch and strengthen in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday | **Lenten Pilgrimage Worship & Luncheon**
March 11 | Gather at St. Mark United Methodist Church for worship at 12:30 P.M.
Enjoy lunch before or after.

Better Together Wellness Group
Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

Books & Brown Bags Study Group
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Discuss the significance of seeing and hearing those around you.

Thursday | **Evening Study Group: Online**
March 12 | Link into <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim> at 7:00 P.M.
Join Jesus as he “careens from table to table” on his way to the cross.

Saturday | **Westminster Spring Cleanup Day** (*see page 11*)
March 14 | Congregate at 9:00 A.M. in the Courtyard with your garden tools.
Honor God by keeping His House beautiful.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Saturday
March 14,
continued

Mindful Meditation

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday
March 15

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom

Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

In the Light – Rev. Kevin Cartee, Guest Preacher (see page 11)

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Walk as children of the light!

Sunday Sustenance

Savor a tasty lunch provided by Chef Rob and his sous chefs.

Bring some extra cash for Camp Fellowship scholarships (see page 12).

Monday
March 16

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

Lenten Chair Yoga

Stretch and strengthen in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group

Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday
March 17

Saint Patrick's Day (see page 12)

Wednesday
March 18

Lenten Pilgrimage Worship & Luncheon

Gather at First Baptist Church for worship at 12:30 P.M.

Enjoy lunch before or after.

Better Together Wellness Group

Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

Devote some time to improving your health.

Books & Brown Bags Study Group

Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Savor our slow walk through *How to Know a Person*.

Beloved Children of God, do not be weary in doing what is right.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Thursday
March 19**

Evening Study Group: Online

Link into <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim> at 7:00 P.M.

Share the discomfort of the unwary host when Jesus arrives for dinner.

**Friday
March 20**

Mr. Roger's Day (*see page 12*)

**Saturday
March 21**

Mindful Meditation

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

**Sunday
March 22**

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.

Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

God Shows Us the Way

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Keep your eyes on Jesus as he shows us how to truly live God's call.

**Monday
March 23**

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

Lenten Yoga Series

Come as you are to the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

Engage in the gentle discipline of yoga for rest, reflection, and renewal.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group

Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Wednesday
March 25**

Lenten Pilgrimage

Gather Main Street United Methodist Church for worship at 12:30 P.M.

Enjoy lunch before or after.

Better Together Wellness Group

Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

Share ideas for healthy habits.

Books & Brown Bags Study Group

Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Thursday
March 26**

PFLAG Meeting

Connect in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Find support with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Thursday
March 26,
continued

Evening Study Group: Online

Link into <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim> at 7:00 P.M.
Dive more deeply into Jesus's stories told around the table.

Saturday
March 28

Mindful Meditation

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

Easter Egg Hunt (*see page 26*)

Bring your basket to the Courtyard at 3:00 P.M.

Let your little ones learn about Jesus and the joy he brings.

Sunday
March 29

Palm Sunday (*see page 13*)/**One Great Hour of Sharing** (*see page 14*)

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.

Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

God in Solidarity With Us

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Wave your palm branches high as Christ the Lord proceeds to the cross.

Monday
March 30

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

Lenten Yoga Series

Come as you are to the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M. (*See page 9*)

Engage in the gentle discipline of yoga for rest, reflection, and renewal.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group

Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
April 1

Lenten Pilgrimage Worship & Luncheon

Gather at Morris Chapel for worship at 12:30 P.M.

Enjoy lunch before or after.

Note: Books & Brown Bags Study Group will not meet

Thursday
April 2

Maundy Thursday

Seeing the Face of God on the Cross

Worship at 7:00 P.M. in person or via live streaming.

Revisit the pain and the promise of Jesus last supper with his disciples.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday April 5	Easter—Christ is Risen!
	Flowering of the Cross Replace ugliness with beauty in the Courtyard at 9:00 A.M. Bring family and friends to share this Westminster tradition with us.
	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
	Resurrection in the Shadow of the Cross Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Feel your heart burning within you as the risen Christ reveals himself.

Children/Youth Sunday School: Preparing for Easter

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie

The children and youth Sunday School class began their Lenten journey by reading and discussing Matthew 4 with emphasis on “temptation.” As they continued reviewing the Parts of Worship, they focused on Confession, and how confession relates to temptation, sin, and forgiveness.

During March, the class will read and discuss parables from the Gospel of Matthew. They will also open child-appropriate “resurrection eggs,” discuss the symbol that was hidden inside the egg, and then hang the symbol on a “Lenten tree.” As Easter draws near, they will read about the days leading to the cross, including the Last Supper.

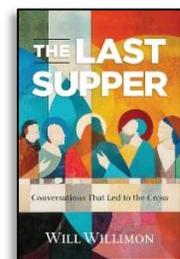
In addition to waiting and preparing for Easter, the class will recognize “Mr. Roger’s Day,” with emphasis on showing compassion and kindness to others.

The children are looking forward to the Easter Egg Hunt on March 28, and to Vacation Bible Camp in June. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to participate in these events, look on page 26 in this newsletter or call the church office.

Adult Sunday Study Invitation

Submitted by Tim Rogers

All are welcomed to our Sunday School Class “table.” We are reading and having great discussion of the book by Will Willimon titled *The Last Supper*. Will has an insightful and engaging way of discussing the scripture and its interpretation and application in today’s fast-paced and competitive culture. He challenges us to see today’s opportunity to live a life with Jesus.



“Open your eyes! See the kingdom breaking out right here, now, among you!”

We meet at 10:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys room upstairs next to the Fellowship Hall. We even have coffee available, frequently accompanied by delicious cookies and scones prepared by ever-faithful servant, Rob Graves, cook extraordinaire!

God is Doing a New Thing...Online!

God promises that "...where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). Note that God doesn't specify that those two or three must be in the same room together—just gathered in spirit, and that can happen online!



Do you yearn to be a part of a Bible study group or a Presbyterian Women's circle, but you don't drive anymore, or you're working during the regularly scheduled meeting time? Then these new offerings from God's expansive classroom/living room are just what you've been waiting for! Ginny Cartee and Mary Frances Thompson have teamed up to bring you two virtual opportunities to gather around God's word via the internet:

Thursday Evening Study Group: Ginny and Mary Frances are leading a new study group every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. The online group, in harmony with the Sunday morning adult study, is exploring Will Willimon's captivating book, *The Last Supper: Conversations that Led to the Cross*. The book can be downloaded through Kindle for quick delivery or ordered online.

PW Monthly Circle Online: Beginning on March 3 at 7:00 P.M., the women of Westminster are invited to engage with each other online for fellowship and Bible study. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. Lessons for this group use materials in the Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study for this year, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. No prereading is necessary.

The link is the same for both sessions: <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim>

If you have questions or are interested in participating in either (or both!) groups, contact Ginny Cartee at gcartee600@gmail.com to let her know. What a wonderful new way to enjoy God, follow Jesus, and grow disciples!

Lenten Chair Yoga: Creating Space for the Spirit

Throughout Lent, you are invited to participate in a free one-hour chair yoga class. It is offered by instructor Lisa Wieckie as a gentle Lenten practice of rest, reflection, and renewal. All are welcome—come dressed as you are. No yoga experience, special clothing, or equipment is needed.



The Rev. Caroline V. Dennis to Lead March 4 Pilgrimage Worship

Lenten Pilgrimage

The Greenwood community treasures our annual midday Wednesday ecumenical Lenten Pilgrimage, where churches of all types host a brief worship service, combined with a light lunch. The March 4th event is being held at First Presbyterian Church-Greenwood, with our own Caroline Dennis leading worship.

The service begins at 12:30 P.M. A light lunch is available at noon and again at 1:00 P.M. A \$2.00 donation is requested to assist with food costs. All offerings benefit Greater Greenwood United Ministries. See page 25 for the complete schedule and details.



PW: Mission and Meetings

Submitted by Beth Hammond

The mission of Presbyterian Women is “to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom.”

Westminster’s **In-Person PW Circle** will meet in the Joe Gettys Room on Tuesday, March 3, at 11:30 A.M. Please bring your lunch and beverage and join us! Kathy Gillespie has the program, “The Woman Who Was Bent Over,” from our study book, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. All women of all ages are welcome—no prior PW experience required!

Our new **Virtual PW Circle** meets at 7:00 P.M., also on March 3. Ginny Cartee and Mary Frances Thompson are facilitating a discussion of the first three chapters of the PW study book (copies available from the church office). No prereading is required. To attend online, click on: <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim>

Living Better Together

Lifestyle choices can have a positive or a negative impact on optimizing the working of this miraculous body God has given us. The Better Together series offers interactive sessions that focus on one area of wellness.



The group meets Wednesdays at 5:15 P.M. through March 25th in the Fellowship Hall.

All sessions are free, everyone is welcome, and each session stands

alone; participation in earlier sessions is not required.

Consider the Lilies...

To beautify our sacred Sanctuary space during Easter, we traditionally invite everyone to sponsor an Easter Lily. After worship, donors are encouraged to take their flower home to enjoy or share.



Easter Lily dedications are a wonderful way to honor a loved one. Look for order forms on the table in the Narthex. Or complete the form on the WPC website. Each lily costs \$20. The deadline for placing orders is March 29.

A Souper Thank You for Your Super Generosity!



Mission & Outreach co-chairs, Laine Horowitz and Richard Wilson, challenged the Westminster congregation to raise \$1,200 for the Greenwood Food Bank in response to the annual Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser. Because of your generous response, we rejoice to report that our soup pot runneth over!!

Thanks to your willingness to follow Jesus, **we donated \$1,413 to the Food Bank**, helping many people in our community enjoy full sacks of groceries and not empty bowls. That is, indeed, something to celebrate!

Welcome Back, Boston College!



**BOSTON
COLLEGE**

For many years, Westminster has been blessed by hosting volunteer mission teams made up of students from Boston College. On Sunday, March 1, eight students from Boston College will arrive in Greenwood to spend their spring break helping Greenwood Community Home Repair build a house for our neighbors. This mission team will be working with our own Rob Graves, and will be lodging here at the church.

Here is how you can help: **Join us Wednesday, March 4, for a Family Night Supper** in Fellowship Hall. We'll get to know these hard-working students, show them some southern hospitality, and learn more about Greenwood Community Home Repair. Our Congregational Care & Fellowship hospitality team has everything organized; all we need is for you to make a reservation. If you have not already signed up, please use the form provided in the Narthex, or contact the church office by noon on Monday, March 2.

March 14 is Spring Cleanup Day

Submitted by Richard Whiting, B&G Chair

Despite the recent blizzard in the Northeast, we know spring is about to...well, *spring*. And that means it's time for our semi-annual cleanup day around the WPC grounds and, perhaps, a few things inside.

There will be some minor yard work—spreading of pine needles and mulch—and maybe some trimming here and there. Looking into opportunities to tackle tidying up a room or two inside, with an emphasis on the kitchen likely.



Cleanup day is 9:00 A.M. to noon Saturday, March 14. In the event of one of those freak storms hitting our area (we call it “false spring” in South Carolina for a reason) that weekend, we'll move the date to March 21.

Please email Richard Whiting to let him know you are willing, ready and equipped to assist: richardswiting@gmail.com.

All in the Family: Kevin Cartee is Guest Preacher



Kevin Cartee, Executive Director of Camp Fellowship, is the son of proud parents Ginny and Marvin Cartee. Westminster is delighted to join them in welcoming Kevin back to our pulpit on March 15th.

Kevin is originally from Laurens, SC. He is a graduate of Presbyterian College (BA-Religion & Christian Education) and Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (M.Div. and Master in Christian Education). As an ordained Presbyterian Pastor, Kevin enjoys teaching, preaching, and leading worship, education, and weaving Christian hospitality into the day-to-day life of this ministry. Kevin has recently stepped down after many years as pastor for Ware Shoals Presbyterian Church. Kevin has many interests and talents, not the least of which is his deep knowledge of turtles.

Much More than Just Summer Fun

Submitted by Laine Horowitz, M&O Cochair



Be rooted and established in love!

Ephesians 3:17

Camp Fellowship reports they are “Rooted & Rising as we plan for the future at Fellowship,” which supports their mission “to make connections for better living, stronger communities and personal and spiritual growth and development.”



Have you ever stood in a forest surrounded by trees whose roots were sort of above ground, and the trees grew so closely together that you couldn't tell where one tree's roots stopped and another tree's began? That's kind of how I picture Camp Fellowship and their partners. Who are their partners? There are so many! I'll just stick with the familiar ones. There's Presbyterian College, both the Greenwood and Laurens Chambers of Commerce, and hmmm...oh yeah! *Us!*

Most of you are probably familiar with Camp Fellowship. Perhaps you've attended Worship on the Water there, or a retreat, or even summer camp, years ago. So for this article, I challenged myself to dig up information that I hope is new to you. It's certainly new to me!

In 1947, First Church in Clinton asked Harry B. Fraser to look for a piece of land on Lake Greenwood to be used as a camp site. He reached out for help from a local reverend. He had heard about a piece of property that had supposedly been destined to be a nightclub, if the neighbors had not reportedly gotten an injunction against it. The owners, three siblings, decided to sell the property. They wanted \$2,500 for it. (Remember, this is 1947.) Once the brother found out why Mr. Fraser wanted the property, he and his sisters lowered the price to \$1,100. Discovered, haggled, and bought. All in three days. From nightclub to church campgrounds in three days. Wow! If that story gets you wanting to know more about Camp Fellowship's founding, please pick up a copy of Harry B. Fraser's *The Story of Camp Fellowship*.



Camp Fellowship offers such a variety of camps that if I tried to describe them here, I would need the whole newsletter! Instead of staging a writing coup and ousting Claire from her role as editor, I'll direct you to www.campfellowship.org for the numerous offerings from CF for both kids and adults.

Our **Camp Fellowship Special Offering**, to be collected on **March 15th**, goes to Camperships, which help kids who might not ordinarily be able to go to these camps to attend them. For many of these children, it will be their first experience at camp. Since 2018, Camp Fellowship has operated on a voluntary three-tier pay schedule. They promise that they will never turn a camper away based on their inability to pay. Think about that. How beautiful is that! The reality is though, that camp is not cheap. Camp Fellowship desperately *needs* these Camperships so they don't have to turn kids away who can't pay. Camp Fellowship is the emergency room of camps Let's provide some insurance!

Who Was St. Patrick?

Downloaded from *Britannica.com*

St. Patrick's Day is the traditional Catholic feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to Christianity.

By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for



example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the three-leaf shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.



While the real St. Patrick probably didn't know anything about green beer or corned beef and cabbage dinners, he knew a great deal about crafting effective and beautiful prayers, many of which have been cherished throughout the centuries. Here's a blessing that is attributed to St. Patrick:

May the strength of God pilot us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us.
May the shield of God defend us.
May the host of God guard us against
the snares of evil
and the temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us,
Christ before us,
Christ in us,
Christ over us.
May your salvation, O Lord,
be always ours
this day and forevermore. *Amen!*

Mr. Roger's Day: March 20th

Downloaded from *pcusa.org*

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20th is his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.



Reasons to Celebrate

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with March birthdays:

- ❖ 1st – Tim Mossman
- ❖ 4th – Steve Kuhl & Sarah Parks
- ❖ 6th – Curtis Autry & Theresa Jacobs
- ❖ 16th – James Daniel Warner
- ❖ 21st – Caris Broadway
- ❖ 26th – Heather McDonald
- ❖ 28th – Rob Graves
- ❖ 30th – Jimmy Corley



Additionally, let's rejoice with these fine couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month:

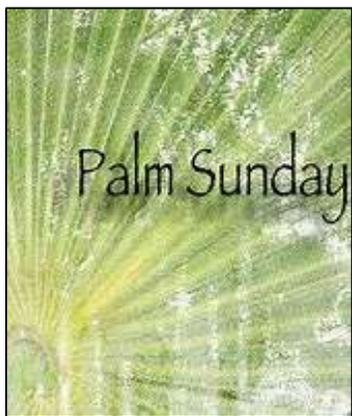
- ❖ 4th – Caroline & Phillip Dennis
- ❖ 31st – Charisma & Joseph Broadway

Why *Palms* on Palm Sunday?

Excerpted from pcusa.org

The palm frond (from the leaves of the *Aracaceae*) was a symbol of triumph in Roman times, bestowed upon the winners of military or athletic contests. They were the original pom-poms, or if you prefer, those giant foam fingers at football games.

Therefore, when the people of Jerusalem greet Jesus with palm branches (Matthew 21, e.g.), they aren't just grabbing what is handy to express their jubilation. The palms symbolize victory, a fitting tribute for the return of a triumphant king. There are



multiple levels of irony in this scene: the one they greet is a not a king in a chariot, but a humble man riding on a donkey; he comes not with military might, but to establish

a reign of peace; his "battle" is ahead of him, and it will seem to end in tragic and crushing defeat; the very crowds who are now crying "hosanna" ("save us") will soon be shouting "crucify him!"

For the early Christians who suffered under Roman persecution, the symbol of the palm branch took on new significance as a sign of faithfulness and perseverance under the threat of death. In Revelation 7, the white-robed redeemed from every tribe and nation — "those who have come out of the great ordeal" — wave their palm branches around the throne of God, crying out: "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

**Palm Sunday Worship Service
Sunday, March 29—10:00 A.M.**

PC(USA) Designates March 31st as Transgender Day of Visibility

Excerpted from pcusa.org



Picture a life shrouded in secrecy, where your true essence remains concealed from the world. Imagine facing legal barriers that limit your access to essential health care, participation in sports, and even the use of public restrooms. Amid this oppressive environment, consider the profound significance of discovering a small community of allies who not only accept but celebrate your authentic self, allowing it to shine brilliantly amidst the darkness. This is the significance of the Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV).

TDOV is a day that our local churches can embrace and celebrate the diverse identities of transgender and non-binary individuals, affirming their intrinsic worth as creations of God. By providing a welcoming space for positive and genuine representation, we can help these individuals feel acknowledged and valued for who they truly are.

Furthermore, TDOV serves as a valuable opportunity to dispel misconceptions and promote understanding of the transgender and non-binary experience. Using social connections and educational resources, we can foster empathy and solidarity within the broader LGBTQIA+ and PC(USA) communities, thereby creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.

*For just as the body is one and
has many members, and all the
members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.
If one member suffers, all suffer
together; if one member is honored,
all rejoice together.*

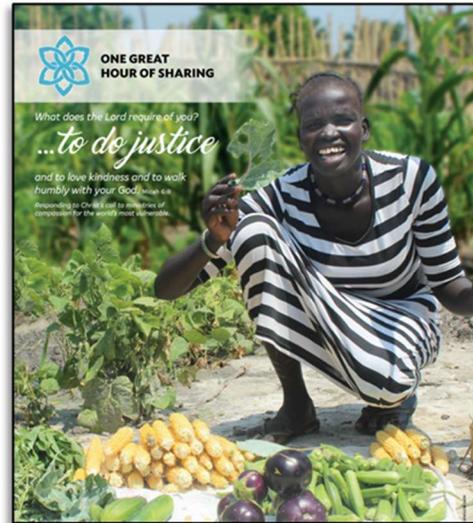
I Corinthians 12:12, 26

Great Hour of Sharing: Palm Sunday Special Offering

Submitted by Laine Horowitz, Mission & Outreach Co-Chair

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need:

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**
 - Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
 - Support for refugees receives 32% of funds
- **Presbyterian Hunger Program**
 - Takes action to alleviate hunger care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so that all be may be fed
 - Receives 36% of funds
- **Self-Development of People**
 - Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues
 - Receives 32%



Please prayerfully consider your donation for the **One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on Palm Sunday, March 29th**. If you give by check, please note the OGHS designation on the memo line. Also, you can help the young people in your sphere strengthen their sharing muscles by giving them an OGHS Fish Bank from the Narthex and challenging them to put in a few coins every day. Together, you are showing a broken world how “...to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).



First Sunday is Purple Bag Day!

The first Sunday of every month, the people of Westminster are fed at the Communion Table, and in turn, we help feed others by bringing our purple bags full of groceries for our neighbors.

The shopping list is right there on the bag. Bring the bag right into worship with you and sit it next to you on the pew, as if the neighbor who will be sustained by this offering is sitting there.

When you leave, you may leave the bag in your seat and pick up an empty bag on your way out. Stewards of these groceries will make sure they get to our Greenwood Community Food Pantry on Monday morning.



Envisioning the Future of Our Facility

Submitted by Bill Kimler

We kicked off a new, but critical, ministry team this past month: **The Facilities Stewardship Ministry Team!** This diverse group of ten or so church members gathered for a 30-minute kickoff meeting with the goal of identifying and prioritizing the needs of our building and grounds, both short-term and long-term. Every team must have a purpose, and that of this group is simple:

The Facilities Stewardship Ministry Team (FSMT) serves our congregation by ensuring our physical spaces support worship, discipleship, fellowship, and outreach through thoughtful planning and long-term care.

In this first meeting, the group commenced in a torrential brainstorming session. Nearly 50 suggestions, ideas, observations and dreams were shared and captured. But we definitely could use *your* input as well! Please share your own observations on areas in which you feel our facilities could be improved upon to serve the needs of the church. Feel free to email Bill Kimler (dreamingofdata@gmail.com), Richard Whiting (richardswighting@gmail.com) and Pastor Caroline (cvdennis.wpcgwd@gmail.com) so that we can include your input as we create a plan for the future

We're Workin' on the Kirkin' for 2026!

Submitted by Gloria Christie

WPC's inaugural Kirkin' O' the Tartans service was so well received, we plan to make it an annual tradition! As you may know, the celebratory supplies for our 2025 Kirkin' were borrowed from First Presbyterian. But now you have an opportunity to help make Westminster's Kirkin' reflect our own church family.



This year's service will be on Sunday, September 20th, and while that may seem far away right now, it is not too early to start thinking about ways in which you might be a part of this year's celebration. Please prayerfully consider how you might be part of the fun through volunteering your time or purchasing some or all of the items needed to fully represent your (or another) family's tartan.

Supplies and support needed: *(costs are close estimates)*

- 1 flagpole kit (includes pole, topper, and stand): \$120
- Tartan fabric for 1 flag: \$75-100
- 1 flag tassel: \$15
- Complete tartan flag kit: \$210
- Boutonniere supplies: \$15
- Volunteers to sew flags (simple seams)



To pledge your support for Kirkin' please fill out the **WPC Kirkin' Support Form** at bit.ly/WPC-kirkin or use the QR code at left. For those who prefer, paper copies will be available in the narthex." If you have questions, contact Gloria Christie: ggchristie716@gmail.com or 864-379-5034.

Poetry Corner

Submitted by Member of WPC 2026

Sister

I remember her
From my past
I always loved
To hear her laugh

But I am lost
Now she's gone
I can't call her
On the phone

We shared our life
For many years
And all that's left
Are some tears

What to do
I feel so sad
But at the church
It's not so bad

With your presence
On the pew
Others know
What I go through

And they reach out
With their hand
I no longer feel
In a foreign land

So if you see me
And give me a smile
Beware that you
Helped me walk this mile.



Best Wishes, Katie!

On Sunday, February 22, Westminster bade farewell to our friend, Katie Henderson, who has been part of the Camp Fellowship staff for the past several years. She is following God's call to a new post in Germany. As part of Time for All God's Children, she received blessings and laying on of hands from our youngest family members.



Photo by Tim Rogers

Katie grew up on the South Texas coast in Rockport, TX. She majored in Corporate Communications at the University of Texas at Austin and graduated with her Master of Divinity at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

At age 16, Katie began to discern God's call in her life to serve in camping and retreat ministry. Katie is passionate about the care of God's creation and creating opportunities for people to explore and deepen their faith.

Safe travels and Godspeed, Katie—you will remain in our prayers as you plunge into your next great adventure!

In the Spotlight: Doris and Clint McInnes



Recently, our Westminster family has revealed in a bit of a growth spurt (*see page 27*)! One delightful aspect of that growth is the opportunity to get to know our new siblings in Christ.

This month, we turn our spotlight on Doris and Clint McInnes. They first connected with WPC at the Pride Month event we hosted, then had a taste of Dinner Church, and wrestled with us as we reconciled Faith & Science in Sunday study.

Doris became a member in November, 2025, and is active in worship and small group studies. And you may remember Clint for his melodious turns as vocalist and as the wizard behind a lighting demonstration for the children's sermon. They have graciously taken time to answer our traditional five silly questions. Enjoy getting to know these interesting, faithful new friends!

From Doris:

What gives me joy? Driving into the mountains along the Blue Ridge Parkway, or the Smoky Mountains generally, when the weather had gotten uncomfortably hot down here, and the air is crisp and cool at the higher elevations. My absolute favorite was to drive my old 1990 Ford F150 piece of junk up there. I don't have that truck anymore and I miss it. Our current vehicles are much safer and way prettier.

What drives me crazy? Many things, but briefly: hangnails.

My favorite piece of music varies with my moods, but standard favorites are Pachelbel's Canon in D; G.F. Handel's Messiah (the whole thing); Beethoven's symphonies numbers 2, 6, and 7; J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos (all 6), and Camille Saint-Saens' Symphony No. 3 Organ Symphony.

My favorite thing to do with spare time? Probably read books. I like silly little romances, humor (Dave Barry, for example), and whatever non-fiction subject strikes my fancy at the moment. Most recently, non-fiction titles downloaded to my Kindle are *Extreme Economies*, by Richard Davies and *Spook* by Mary Roach. Otherwise I might just nap.

My favorite meal is probably the cheesy scrambled eggs and cinnamon toast that Clint makes. It's not fancy, not something I'd want for a special occasion, but it's delicious and made with love. He makes very good scrambled eggs.

From Clint:

Wow. Interesting questions. I have reasonably solid answers for three ...

... no, I guess two ...

... hmmm ...

Okay, let's see where this goes.

Continued on page 19

1. What gives you joy?

Spending time with my wife.

A nice autumn day.

The love of a dog.

A design that turns out to do exactly what I'd intended.

Good barbecue, preferably eaten outdoors in the shade while enjoying a cool breeze.

A well-turned aphorism.



2. What drives you crazy?

Politics, particularly the dystopian hellscape we currently have in Washington.

Oblivious drivers. (I mean, come on! How hard is it to PAY ATTENTION TO TRAFFIC?????)

The casual slaying of the English language I encounter daily.

Being put in the position of cleaning up other people's mistakes/poor decisions/active malice.

Dealing with people who have forsaken reason (see previous comment about politics).

3. What's your favorite piece of music?

This one is not easy. I don't know that I *have* a consistent favorite. My tastes are wide-ranging and varied, but a brief list would include:

- Evermore (Dan Stevens from the "Beauty and the Beast" soundtrack)
- The Russian Easter Overture (Rimsky Korsakov)
- The Canadian Railroad Trilogy (Gordon Lightfoot)
- Dust in the Wind (Kansas)
- The 1812 Overture (Tchaikovsky)
- Free (from the Kpop Demon Hunters soundtrack ... and a few others in the film. They're all bangers.)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen)
- Many (MANY) of Weird Al Yankovic's songs
- Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor
- Heroes for Our Time (Dragonforce)
- The Foggy Mountain Breakdown (Flatt & Scruggs, but many people have done excellent arrangements)
- Windmills of Your Mind (Alison Moyet)
- She's Always A Woman to Me (Billy Joel)
- Rootbeer Rag (also Billy Joel)
- Albinoni Oboe Concertos (all of them because WOW)
- Miserere Mei (Allegri)
- Classical Gas (Mason Williams)
- Die Valkure (Wagner)

... and on and on and on. Seriously, I could do this for hours.

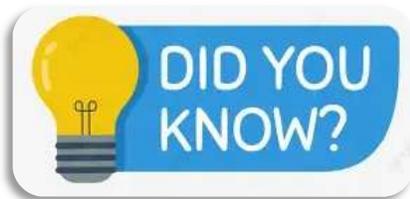
[Editor's Note: complete "brief" list with video links available on request]

4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?

Write. I have so many stories bopping around in my head. This is something I intend to do a lot more of when I retire.

5. What's your favorite meal?

Again, this could take hours. I used to have a list of five things that I refused to eat because they were gross. The list has gradually been trimmed to one item: oysters. (Also, I've developed some kind of very distressing allergy-thing to beef, so I *can't* eat it.) But my favorite meal? Impossible to narrow it down. I never met a cultural cuisine I didn't like.



Fun Facts: WPC Hosts a Daycare Center

A series of tasty tidbits worth knowing about your church home.

Since 2022, Westminster has housed the Toddler Learning Center, operated by Community Initiatives, Inc. (CII), a powerhouse nonprofit that serves the needs of Greenwood's most vulnerable citizens in many different ways. When Community Initiatives felt led to open a daycare/education center for toddlers, God brought our organizations together in a delightfully serendipitous way (ask Caroline to tell you the story), and the Building & Grounds ministry team worked closely with Community Initiatives to establish a strong working relationship.

Recently, in preparing to teach Sunday Study, Tim Rogers decided to learn more about the Toddler Learning Center (TLC) that now thrives in our first-floor nursery wing during the week. He explored the story with CII Executive Director, Teresa Goodman, and she provided us with this report.



TLC's first graduating class

A Ministry of Equity: The Toddler Learning Center



At **Community Initiatives, Inc.**, we believe that a child's zip code or family income should never determine the quality of their education. We are honored to operate the **Toddler Learning Center (TLC)** within the walls of Westminster Presbyterian Church, creating a "Gold Standard" environment for students aged 2 to 4 years old.

Our Vision for the "Whole Child"

TLC is more than a childcare center; it is a sanctuary for growth. We focus on the whole child by prioritizing:

- **Social-Emotional Development:** Helping children navigate feelings and build healthy relationships.
- **Character Building:** Instilling values that guide them long after they leave our classrooms.
- **Academic Excellence:** Preparing young minds for a lifetime of learning.

The Heartbeat of Our Mission: Two Stories of Impact

From Silence to Joy: One of our students arrived at TLC having never been in childcare, previously cared for only by a parent struggling with clinical depression. This child was timid, sad, and had a very limited vocabulary. However, after just three months in our nurturing environment, their language began to blossom. By the time they graduated, that once-silent child had become a prosperous, curious, and joyful student whose true personality shone brightly every day.

Continued on page 21

TLC continued from page 20

A Bridge Through Hardship: We serve families working multiple part-time jobs, parents enrolled in school, and those who have faced sudden layoffs. One family came to us with no



income after a job loss, terrified they couldn't provide the care their child deserved. Because of our sliding fee scale, we were able to support them through that crisis, giving the parents the "breathing room" to reposition their careers while knowing their child was safe and loved.

An Innovative, Equitable Model

We currently have 30 bright learners enrolled and are licensed to serve up to 43 students. Our unique income-based sliding fee scale ensures that we can

serve both those who can pay and those who cannot.

One of the reasons we can offer this high-level care at affordable—and often free—rates is because of the stewardship of Westminster Presbyterian. By leasing this space to us at an affordable rate, the church directly enables Community Initiatives to support families in multiple ways, from healthcare and childcare (ages 2–12) to comprehensive family benefit programs. Together, we ensure families can reach higher levels of stability and success.

Stewardship Snapshot

Please note that because of the newsletter publication schedule vs. timing of month-end close, these reports will typically be about six weeks behind.



January 2026

	January Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$74,716	\$75,703	\$74,716	\$75,703
Total Expenses	\$18,513	\$24,785	\$18,513	\$24,785
Net Gain/Loss	\$56,203		\$56,203	

Unrestricted pledge contributions were elevated for the month due to the prepayment in full of several annual pledge amounts. Also, TLC prepaid rent for the first six months of the year. As a result, a significant surplus of revenues over expenses was recorded. This surplus is reflected in the higher-than-normal ending balance in the operating account. Note that the budgeted monthly Income amount for January was intentionally elevated to promote Actual vs. Budget clarity in future reports; otherwise, monthly income amounts appear to be low when, in fact, the planned monies were received at the beginning of the year and our cash flow is actually solid.

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer David Hammond or to the Business Affairs Ministry Team.



Including, Abiding, Enjoying, Following, and Growing

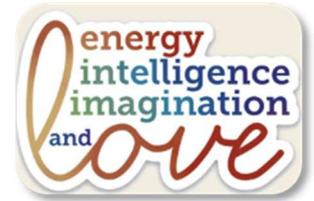
A series exploring Westminster's foundational statements and strategic intention

Undaunted by successive weekends of snow and ice, your Westminster Session forged ahead with a January planning retreat via Zoom. The theme reflected one of the key ordination questions, which challenges Elders to lead using their “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.” This and subsequent issues of *The Westminster Times* will report on the work and findings of that retreat.



Mission, Vision, and Strategic Direction

The floor was opened to general comments and discussion on the Mission, Vision, and Strategic Directions that were established at the 2025 retreat. Participants shared a few observations of where they had seen the mission, vision, and strategies used effectively, along with some thoughts on additional opportunities. The absence of comment in any particulate area speaks to the meeting limitations, not necessarily to any absence of actual observation.



Mission Elements

- Abiding in God
- Including all God's children
 - Pride event in June connected us with new parts of our community (led to new members, some previously unchurched); willing to give church a chance at WPC
 - Not just the “gay church,” but the “inclusive church” on all axes of diversity; not judgmental, but using good judgement
 - Reach out to Hispanic community—what might draw them in and meet their needs? Not all are Catholic! Outreach ideas?
 - Autumn effective as “walking ambassador” for WPC, often with special communities
- Enjoying God
 - Worship services full of genuine joy
- Following Jesus
 - Must make sure we are following Jesus as we are growing; when we add activities, confirm that they align with our Mission, Vision, and Strategic Directions
 - Attracting individuals from other churches because of our open, welcoming focus on accepting and loving all
- Growing Disciples
 - Growth in numbers, both members and friends participating regularly, and engaged in more than just worship
 - Consider another Presbyterian 101 class

Next month: observations about progress and ideas regarding our Vision elements

Let Us Pray...

"My house shall be called a house of prayer"
Matthew 21:13a



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

- Family of John Bacot
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Kathy Felder
- Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- The Blanchett Family
- Ed Watkins
- Kathleen Watkins
- Kathy West
- Mary Anne Wilson
- Joan Wilkins
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- The Dennis family
- Your Session

We pray daily for our prayer partners and their special concerns. We pray for our sister churches: New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and others.

We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank
- Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- Montreat Center
- Community Initiatives
- Toddler Learning Center
- Trinity Presbytery



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for members of our wider community (and our connection to them):

- Elaine Alderman (*Kaitlin*)
- Dan Blimline (*Mary Anne*)
- Rhea Bollinger (*Tracey*)
- Jeff Brown (*Kuhls*)
- Judy Buck (*Lucia*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- Frances Garren (*Wilsons*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Kuhls*)
- Gayle Love family (*Joyce*)
- Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Bruce Muller (*Tracey*)
- Lorene Waldrep (*Denise*)
- Elle Willis (*Rogers*)
- Patsy Wilson family (*Joyce*)
- Barbara (*Purcells*)
- Jodi (*Lucia, Laine*)
- Morgan (*Laine, Doris*)
- Wendell (*McInneses*)

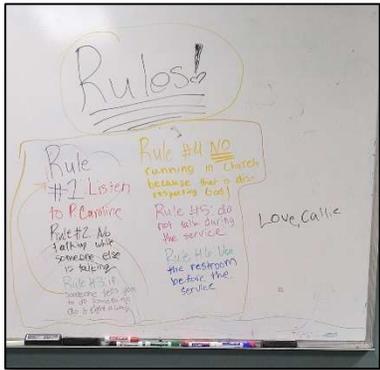


For the World

We pray for our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love:

- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For an end to violence, especially politically motivated attacks of all types
- For the safety of Christians in Nigeria, Pakistan, China, and other oppressive areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and elsewhere
- For wisdom and grace to inform all decisions of those in positions of power
- For those affected by natural disasters, including floods, fire, and winter weather
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses

And God Saw That It Was Good



Callie and Macie Watkins shared their insights and artistry in the Choir Room



Lots of smiles at Sunday Sustenance



A rare snowy Sunday in South Carolina

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE GREENWOOD COMMUNITY

Lenten Pilgrimage

February 25: Immanuel Lutheran Church
March 4: First Presbyterian Church
March 11: St. Mark United Methodist Church
March 18: First Baptist Church
March 25: Main Street United Methodist Church
April 1: Morris Chapel

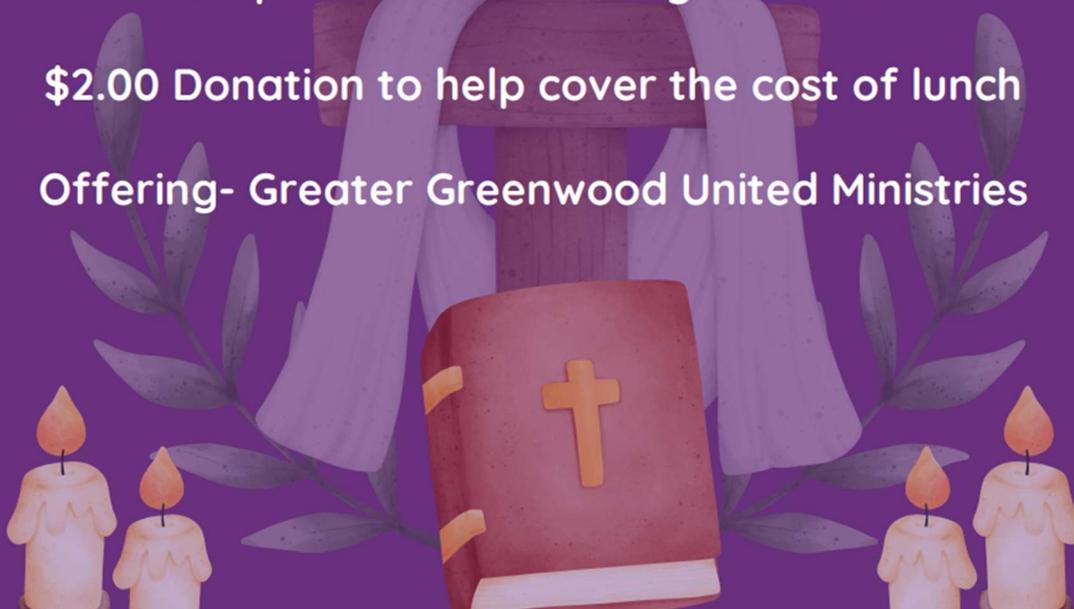
12:00 pm - First Seating for Lunch

12:30 pm - Service

1:00 pm - Second Seating for Lunch

\$2.00 Donation to help cover the cost of lunch

Offering- Greater Greenwood United Ministries



Westminster Easter Egg Hunt



Community Connection: Learn About Foster Care

Foster the City presents

Seeds of Hope

An event for those who want to learn more about foster care in the Lakelands

APRIL 13

6PM

**More than 3,000 kids in foster care in South Carolina
Hope Starts with You**



This event includes:

- Free dinner & on-location childcare
- Foster licensing agencies on-site
- Stories from former and current foster families
- The opportunity to find out how you might be able to plant seeds of hope for kids in need.

Hosted at **Legacy City Church**
1560 Parkway Greenwood, SC

contact@legacycity.church

Register at legacycity.church/fosterthecity

