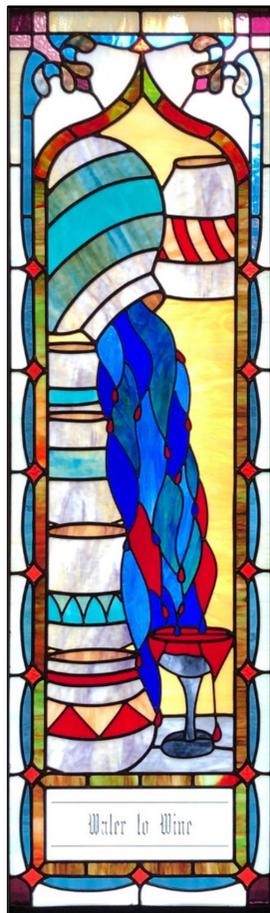


Forty Days: From Water to Wine and the Road in Between

Hello, Church!

I am a tactile learner. Things make better sense to me if I can feel them, or touch them, or move them around. That is perhaps why “faith” is so hard for me—it is hard to touch. I might be a bit like Thomas, who wanted to put his hands in the wounds of the risen Jesus before he would believe. And Jesus was so patient with him, offering him what he needed in order to confess his own faith in the truly unbelievable.



God has always given us tangible signs of God’s presence with us (the best, of course, was Jesus!). I think we come to understand these signs the more we spend time with them. That is the gift of Lent—time to spend with the tangible signs of God’s life-giving, life-saving, life-sustaining work in the ordinary, extra-ordinary as we move from obstinate self-reliance to unity with God and one another.

Our Lenten Study and Devotion Book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, by Jill J. Duffield, slows us down to spend time with these ordinary things. Our scripture readings for Sundays will remind us of God’s mighty acts on the road between our sin and God’s salvation. Our daily practices of prayer, fasting, and alms-giving will give us time to contemplate God’s activity in our lives, grow our hunger for God, and our care for our neighbors.

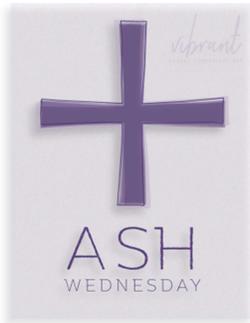
I had never really understood this story of Jesus turning water into wine (John 2:1-12) until I saw this stained-glass image (*left*). This first miracle of Jesus seems to frame Jesus’ life and ministry, between the waters of his Baptism, and the cup he offers his disciples at the Last Supper. It seems to tie together our own sacraments of Baptism and Communion. It is my hope that as we journey through Lent, we will experience something of this transformation, from the cleansing waters of Baptism to the joyful feast of the redeemed. Along the road, between the water and the wine, may our faith and understanding grow as we feel and touch, work with and talk about the many tangible signs of God’s presence with us.

With joy in the journey, I am your pastor and friend,

Caroline

Ash Wednesday Worship Marks the Beginning of Lent

²⁹ When you hide your face,
they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.
³⁰ When you send forth your spirit,
they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
Psalm 104:29-30



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent. This transformational season moves us from sin to salvation, as we hear the epic stories of our faith and contemplate our place in them.

The Ash Wednesday service is a time of confession and repentance, confessing that we have tried to live a Spirit-free life, tried to fill up our emptiness with “not God” things, only to realize that without God, we are merely dust. Just as God formed Adam by God’s own hand from the dust of the ground, and Adam knew life only when God had breathed breath into him, so are we lifeless without the life-giving cross of Christ.

The sign we receive on Ash Wednesday, ashes in the shape of a cross, is a reminder of both our mortality and our salvation. We come to this service to confess, perhaps even to claim our emptiness, and to be filled again, created again, by the life renewing Spirit of God, made known to us in the life giving sacrifice of Jesus.

Join us for a moving and meaningful service of Communion and the Imposition of Ashes:

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020
7:00 P.M. in the WPC Sanctuary**

Lenten Sermon Series From Sin to Salvation: The Road In Between

Lenten sermon topics and readings are:

March 1: It's Tempting

- † Psalm 32
- † Genesis 2:15-17. 3:1-7
- † Matthew 4:1-11

March 8: The Progressive Present

- † Psalm 121
- † Genesis 12:1-4a
- † John 3:1-17

March 15: Thirsty, Anyone?

- † Psalm 95
- † Exodus 17:1-17
- † John 4:5-42

March 22: Seeing What God Sees

- † Psalm 23
- † 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- † John 9:1-41

March 29: Waiting for the Lord

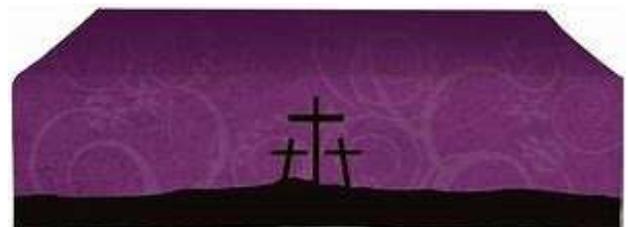
- † Psalm 130
- † Ezekiel 37:1-45
- † John 11:1-45

April 5: From Triumph to Tragedy *Palm Sunday*

- † Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- † Matthew 21:1-11
- † Matthew 26:14-27, 66

April 9: A New Commandment *Maundy Thursday*

- † Exodus 12:1-4
- † John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Westminster Happenings

Sunday Feb 23	Nurture & Education Committee Meeting 4:00 P.M. in the Parlor Help plan educational offerings for every age group.
Every Tuesday	Playtime for Us! 9:30 A.M. in the Nursery – for preschoolers (ages 1-5) with caregivers Enjoy friendship, free play, snacks, stories, and songs.
Wednesday Feb 26	Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 P.M. in the WPC Sanctuary Start Lent with Communion and the imposition of ashes.
Every Thursday	Playtime for Us! 9:30 A.M. in the Nursery – for preschoolers (ages 1-5) with caregivers Enjoy friendship, free play, snacks, stories, and songs.
Thursday Feb 27	Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 P.M. in the Parlor Consider congregational input and mission selection criteria.
Friday Feb 28/ Saturday Feb 29	Westminster Church Family Retreat 5:00 P.M. Friday, February 28 to 5:00 P.M. Saturday, February 29 at Camp Fellowship on Lake Greenwood Grow together in faith and friendship.
Sunday Mar 1	The Road Between Sin and Salvation—<i>It's Tempting</i> 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary Join in strengthening your faith and our church through shared worship.
Sunday Mar 1/ Friday Mar 6	Boston College Mission Group in Residence Welcome the volunteers from Boston College who are making their annual trip to Greenwood to support Habitat for Humanity projects in our area. Prayers and snacks appreciated!
Wednesday Mar 4	Family Night Supper: Barbeque with our Boston Buddies 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall Meet and greet these great representatives of America's youth.
Sunday Mar 8	The Road Between Sin and Salvation—<i>The Progressive Present</i> 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary Come before the Lord with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Monday Mar 9	Presbyterian Women—Circle Meeting 11:00 A.M. in the Choir Room Discuss Lesson 7 of <i>Love Carved in Stone</i> .
Tuesday Mar 10	Worship Committee Meeting 2:00 P.M. in the Choir Room Make plans for Holy Week celebrations. Bible, Beer, & Pizza—Men’s Bible Study 6:30 P.M. at David Bell’s home at 114 Deer Run Lane in Lodge Grounds Feed your soul...and your face (RSVP to Joseph Key for pizza).
Wednesday Mar 11	Quest: Youth, Parents, and Mentors Meeting 6:00 P.M. in the Senior High Classroom Prepare for the next steps of the Confirmation journey (<i>see page 7</i>).
Sunday Mar 15	The Road Between Sin and Salvation—<i>Thirsty, Anyone?</i> 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary Drink from the true source of living water.
Wednesday Mar 18	Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God’s Children 6:30 P.M. in the Senior High Classroom Come prepared for fun and for developing your faith.
Thursday Mar 19	NAMI Caregiver Support Meeting 6:30 P.M. in the Parlor Call Mary Linn Touchberry for details: mltouchberry1952@gmail.com
Sunday Mar 22	The Road Between Sin and Salvation—<i>Seeing What God Sees</i> 10:00 A.M. in the WPC sanctuary Seek to open your eyes, your ears, and your heart to God’s message. Nurture & Education Committee Meeting 4:00 P.M. in the Parlor Review Lenten lessons and prepare for Holy Week.
Wednesday Mar 25	Quest: Youth Fellowship for All God’s Children 6:30 P.M. in the Senior High Classroom Come prepared for fun and for developing your faith.
Thursday Mar 26	Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 5:30 P.M. in the Parlor Participate in updating our 2020 missions agenda.

New Member Spotlight: Tracy and Dashe

You just never know how God will bring people together! Earlier in the school year, Jacob Dennis asked his Mom if she could give a friend of his a ride home. Thank goodness Caroline said, "Sure!" because that's how Bonnie "Dashe" Case and her Mom, Tracy Rainey, first became connected to Westminster.

Tracy grew up Baptist, and relies on her faith in good times and bad. She says she appreciates the warm welcome that Westminster has offered to her and to Dashe.



Dashe has been a stalwart participant in our Quest: Youth Group pretty much since the beginning. You might be curious about the history behind her nickname. Is it because she is always dashing around, busy with band, school, and church activities? Because she loves rowdy punctuation? Or because she adds a dash of fun wherever she goes? You'll just have to ask her!

Speaking of asking, we like to ask all of our spotlight stars to answer our Essential Questions, so here's the inside scoop:

Tracy

- 1. What gives you joy?** Making people happy.
- 2. What drives you crazy?** Rude people.
- 3. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Play with my cats, Scarlett and Pixie "Ding Dong."



- 4. What's your favorite meal?** Fried chicken with mac & cheese pie!

Dashe

- 1. What gives you joy?** Sleep, Mom, and my boyfriend.
- 2. What drives you crazy?** Rude people, homophobic people, not being able to talk to my boyfriend.
- 3. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Sleep, make videos, and *especially*, talk to my boyfriend!
- 4. What's your favorite meal?** Anything, as long as it's not deadly.

Presbyterian Women at Work and Play

Submitted by Louise Taber

The February circle meeting was held at Montague's Restaurant. The lesson on the 7th Commandment was most interesting, lunch was delicious, and the fellowship very enjoyable.

The March circle meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2020 at 11:00. We will be discussing Lesson 7 of *Love Carved in Stone*. Please be sure to read the lesson before the meeting so you can participate fully in the good discussion.

We are undertaking a new project to provide new vinyl tablecloth covers for the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your donation to the Church Office, and be sure it is directed to the PW project.



A Great Excuse for Cake!!

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

- ❖ Steve Kuhl
- ❖ Theresa Jacobs
- ❖ Paula Bourne
- ❖ Louise Tabor
- ❖ Rob Graves



It's also time to break out the cake for these couples who are reaching another marital milestone. Happy anniversary to:

- ❖ Dave & Deb Jones
- ❖ Phillip & Caroline Dennis

If you haven't already done so, please send your family's special dates to Lee Haskins at the church office: wpcgwd1@gmail.com.

WPC Men Feast on God's Great Word *and* Good Pizza

Westminster Men know a good thing when they see it, and thus far in 2020, their monthly gathering for Bible, Beer, & Pizza is a *very* good thing.



As you can see, Len Bornemann, David Bell (*at right*), Phillip Dennis, and Joseph Key (*at left*) enjoyed unseasonably pleasant weather and a refreshing beverage at David Bell's house in February.



On Tuesday, March 10th, David is once again hosting the group at his lovely home in Lodge Grounds: 114 Deer Run.

Make reservation with Joseph Key. He will pick up pizza. You are responsible for providing your own Bible and beer.

Seeking Spiritual Sherpas

Experienced mountain climbers agree: when you decide to tackle Mount Everest, you need a Sherpa to guide you, support you, and keep you safe. In much the same way, those out on a spiritual quest—like the participants in our Confirmation 2.0 Quest: Youth program—also benefit from having someone come along side of them and help them find the true path.



Is God calling *you* to be a spiritual Sherpa for one of these young seekers?

For the next two months, our students will continue to meet as a group *and* have additional meetings with adult mentors in preparation for their coming before our Session to declare faith in Jesus Christ. These volunteer mentors will be assigned a student with whom they are to meet at least five times before Confirmation examination (April 19th).

Mentors are asked to share the following activities with their partner student:

- Attend the Parent/Mentor Orientation Meeting on March 11
- Attend a worship service with their student at another church in our community
- Work with their student on a service project
- Share a meal with their student
- Participate in the Faith Statement Night on April 15

In addition to these meetings, mentors will:

- Assist their student in writing a personal faith statement
- Pray for their student
- Write a personal letter to their student to be presented at Quest on April 15th
- Work with the Pastor to choose the dedication scripture for their student.

If you are ready to strap on your climbing gear and become a spiritual mentor for one of our students, contact the church office (wpcgwd1@gmail.com).



Say the Secret Word...

When you are in the church building, you can access our public wi-fi connection using: *Password1!* Be sure to note uppercase P, digit 1, and exclamation point.

Happy surfing!

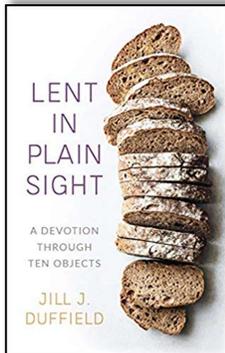


Consider the Lilies...

If you would like to sponsor an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of someone special, look for bulletin inserts in March. Each lily will cost about \$10.

Sunday Study: *Lent in Plain Sight*

Throughout Lent, our Sunday Study will be discussing the lessons in a new book, *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects*. Author Jill J. Duffield is also the editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine.



As Duffield notes in the introduction, “God works through the ordinary. Ordinary people, everyday objects, things we bump up against moment by moment.” The book provides daily devotionals, grouped to reflect on ten of these everyday objects:

- Dust
- Bread
- Cross
- Coins
- Shoes
- Oil
- Coats
- Towels
- Thorns
- Stones

Each Sunday, a volunteer leader will facilitate discussion of the week’s readings and questions for reflection. Come share your thoughts and insights. Copies of our Lenten daily devotionals and study guide are available from Kathy Gillespie for \$10.



First Presbyterian’s March Presentation

On March 17, 2020, Anthony Price will be speaking at the aGAPe luncheon about “What’s New and Exciting at Pathway House.” He will focus on the homeless issue in Greenwood and bring us up to date on the status of how our community is helping them. As Christians, we are always concerned about those less fortunate than we are. This will be a great way to learn how the community and our church go about caring for this segment of our town.

As always, the meeting will include a delicious lunch and fellowship. Fellowship begins with people beginning to arrive after 11:30 AM with lunch served at noon. The cost is only \$8 and includes lunch. Reservations are required.

Be sure to put March 17th on your calendar! For reservations, call Melvyn Davis (864.229.9282).

Part of a series on myths vs. facts of mental health issues

Myth: People are “faking it” or doing it for attention.

Fact: No one would choose to have a mental illness, just as no one would choose to have a physical illness. The causes for mental health conditions are intensively studied and they are real.



For anyone living with a mental health condition, their specific symptoms may not always be visible to an untrained observer. It can be challenging to relate to what people with mental health conditions are going through, but that doesn’t mean that their condition isn’t real.

To learn more about issues related to mental health, visit the website of the National Alliance on Mental Illness: nami.org.

Greenwood Place Update

Fred Murphy, Executive Director



On January 24th Greenwood Place was open for its first full five-day week. As we have experienced a couple more weeks with the addition of Friday, we have experienced a lower participation rate than other days. Some of this fall off is the result of a number of Members having other appointment on this day and some of the Members have expressed that they just need a day to rest. We are working on some new ideas to try and bring more Members to the Clubhouse on Friday.

Our social event for January was a trip to the movies to see Star Wars. A total of 9 people joined us for this Social.



One of the important aspects of the Clubhouse is to provide a place for our Members to come to celebrate holidays together. In January the Clubhouse was open on New Year's Day and for Martin Luther King's Day. We enjoy being able to come tighter on these days.

We have an intern from Piedmont Tech working with us this semester. Her name is Patience Gilchrist. One of her first projects will be to update our Facebook page and develop procedures to update the content of that page. She will also be working with our Members on our newsletter. Patience is with us on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

For February the Members have decided that they wanted to go to a basketball game at Lander. We will be going to their Homecoming game on Saturday February 22nd. We also want to thank Lander University for providing us with tickets to this game free of charge. It looks like we will have around 20 Members participate in the Social Event.

We are working steadily to build a firm financial foundation. We are grateful for the many individuals and partner organizations that are coming along side of us in these efforts.

Greenwood Community Lenten Pilgrimage Returns for 2020

Looking for a meaning way to enrich your Lenten discipline? Consider participating in this year's pilgrimage. Worship services are from 12:30 to 1:00 P.M. Meals are served from noon to 12:30 P.M. and again from 1:00 to 1:30 P.M. at each location. The cost per meal is \$1.00.

- 2/26: Greenwood ARP Church
- 3/4: Main Street United Methodist
- 3/11: Immanuel Lutheran
- 3/18: First Baptist Church
- 3/25: Church of the Resurrection
- 4/1: First Presbyterian Church
- 4/8: Morris Chapel Baptist Church



It's Never Too Late to Join the Fun!

From Kathy Gillespie

Chair, Nurture and Education Committee

I am grateful for all the support and encouragement that I have gotten since I started this new journey of serving as an elder. At the recent Committee Carnival, several people signed up to help with various ministries offered by the Nurture and Education committee.

Even if you did not attend, you can still volunteer to help keep the nursery, provide meals for our youth group, or lead Bible study! We are in the process of establishing subcommittees to coordinate educational programs for children, for youth, and for adults. If you would like to be part of one of these teams, please let me know. I also invite you to make suggestions about how we can improve our nurture and educational opportunities at Westminster.



Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Mardi Gras Arrives Early at the Carnival of Committees

On February 19th, the Session presented a Carnival of Committees, with a goal of engaging *every* member of the congregation in using their gifts and talents to the glory of God. Each of our five standing committees prepared an interactive display and brief pitch to explain the purpose and work of that committee. The carnival atmosphere and Mardi Gras spirit were enhanced by a spicy combination of chili, beads and feathers in traditional purple and gold, King cake (complete with Baby Jesus), and New Orleans Dixieland jazz. Many thanks to everyone whose hard work and good spirits made the evening a festive event!



More photos on page 12

Let Us Pray...

Please keep these and other Westminster family and friends in your prayers.

“...if we ask anything according to His will, God hears us.”

John 5:14b



For Those in Our Church

We lift our prayers for those struggling with their health, including especially:

- Kathy Felder
- Lynn Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Fred Taber

We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:

- Quest: Youth
- Prison Ministry
- Greenwood Place
- Thornwell Home
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Camp Fellowship
- Greenwood Food Pantry
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries
- The Alexander's South Africa Mission



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for these members of our wider community:

- Charles Alexander
- Sissy Brockenbrough
- Stephan Botchie
- Lucia Bryson
- Ashlyn Buchanan
- Ronnie Case
- Clara Costello
- Debbie Dill
- Kiersty Duncan
- Charlotte Gero
- Betty Gossam
- Dee Greene
- Lois & Bob Grice
- Jimmy Hughes
- Norma Hoviss
- Hoyt Jenkins
- Ashley Mahon
- Bill & Suzy Mitchell
- Margaret Rada
- Terrance Reece
- Tyler South
- Howard Thomas
- Jack Waldrup
- Frank & Karen Whitt
- Jeff Williams
- Sarah Willis
- Kathy West's granddaughter



For the World

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

- As we celebrate Women's History month, we are grateful for the women of the past who opened doors for the women of the present and future.
- We pray for peace in Israel, for our leaders in Washington, D.C., and for the well-being of our planet.
- We pray for the Gartrell family, our mission partners in Brazil.
- We pray for those seeking work.
- We pray for those struggling with depression.

Carnival of Committees, *continued*

