

## Coming & Going—Confirmation 2.0: A Journey with Jacob

When our children are baptized, we mark them with a sign of the covenant. Living water poured on their heads tells them that they belong to the Living God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We remember God's words to Jesus at his baptism, "This is my beloved child with whom I am well pleased." We pray blessing upon them, trusting them into the protection and guidance of the Holy Spirit. And we promise to teach them all that we know about the one who came to be "God with Us," Jesus.



Ron Byars, in *Embraced and Embracing: Exploring the Foundations of Confirmation*, describes Baptism as God's covenant embrace. As a child grows, he is invited to embrace the covenant in which God has embraced him. To confirm the faith that has been held for him by God and the generations of God's covenant partners who have gone before him. To make it his own. As Joshua put it before the Hebrew people, "This is the day you will choose whom you serve. As for me, and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

Confirmation is not a one-day event. It is a day of decision and a lifetime of daily decisions. It is a journey of learning and a lifetime of practice.

This year, our Christian Nurture and Education Committee invites our congregation to walk alongside Jacob Dennis during his confirmation year in a journey of "(re)confirmation." We are eager to learn some things we never knew and relearn some things we have forgotten. We will wrestle with the tough questions of faith, like the biblical Jacob wrestled with God, and come out on the other side with a blessing. We will return God's embrace, again, and again, and again.

Hamp Watkins, Emily Keinker, Jacob Dennis, Bill Jacobs, and Caroline Dennis form the Confirmation Work Group that is planning and leading our confirmation year. Under their leadership we will be learning about AND practicing our faith. Our year includes:

- 12 Sunday Study classes spread throughout the year;
- 12 additional member mentor meetings with Jacob;
- Shared service, worship, and fieldtrips;
- Fun fellowship; and
- Even a church family retreat!



I am reminded of the boy Jesus, whose parents inadvertently left him in the Temple one year. When they returned, they found him sitting in the midst of the elders, “listening to them and asking questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.” (Luke 2:46-47) I believe we will be amazed by all that God will teach us this year as we go with Jacob on a journey of (re)confirmation.

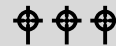
With joy in the journey,

*Caroline*

## **Confirmation 2.0: A Journey with Jacob**

Begins Sunday morning,  
October 6 at  
9:00 A.M.

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## Meet David Bell—WPC’s Newest Member

Westminster is thrilled to welcome back our dear friend, **David Bell**, who officially moved his letter of membership on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

David has already been an active participant in Westminster worship—he and his trusty guitar led music for several Worship on the Water services. WOW, indeed! David has one daughter, Anne-Miller.



David took a moment to answer the five essential questions of life:

**Q1: What gives you joy?**

A1: My daughter

**Q2: What drives you crazy?**

A2: Politics

**Q3: What's your favorite piece of music?**

A3: “Amazing Grace”

**Q4: What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?**

A4: Play guitar

**Q5: What's your favorite meal?**

A5: Wings

Please make David feel welcome, and remember to give him a call the next time you want to have a jam session and eat wings!

## WPC Hosts Mental Illness Awareness Event



On September 18<sup>th</sup>., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greenwood Place, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness hosted a conversation with Sarah Griffith Lund, author of *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and the Church*. In conjunction with Lund's presentation, Greenwood Place and NAMI presided over information tables, and were able to connect with attendees about the many vital services and programs they offer.

More than 40 congregation and community members attended. A number of churches were represented, as well as Connie Maxwell Children's Home, Wesley Commons, Self Regional Healthcare, and United Way of Anderson. Participants were interested in and, in many cases, directly affected by mental health concerns.

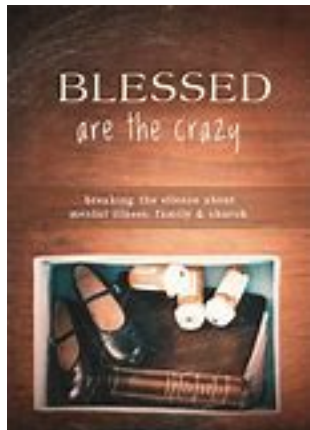
Reverend Lund shared her story of growing up in a family deeply affected by mental illness. Some of that story was familiar to Sunday Study participants who read and discussed *Blessed are the Crazy*. Some of it was new to everyone. And *all* of it was powerful, poignant, and often painful. Still she began and ended her message by emphasizing hope. "Look around you," she said in her opening remarks. "Everyone you see here represents hope!"

Unexpectedly, Reverend Lund was present via Skype rather than in person. As she explained, her husband experienced a mental health emergency on Monday. In sharing about this, Lund noted, "When you live with mental illness, you have to be ready to change your plans at a moment's notice—you live knowing that there are many things you can't control."



Everyone present was invited to offer ideas for how Westminster, Greenwood Place, and NAMI might continue "breaking the silence about mental illness, family, and the church." Your Missions & Outreach Committee will summarize those suggestions and share with the congregation for consideration.

Reverend Lund majored in religious studies in college at Trinity University, graduated with a Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary, and also received a Master of Social Work degree at Rutgers University. She was ordained into Christian ministry by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 2002 and began serving as a local church pastor in 2003.



In 2011, she earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary with a focus on revitalizing the local church. She has served large and small congregations in Brooklyn, Minneapolis, and New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and Indianapolis, Indiana. She currently serves on the National Staff of The United Church of Christ as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.

You can purchase a copy of Lund's book, *Blessed are the Crazy*, from the church office for \$15. It is also available online at [ChalicePress.com](http://ChalicePress.com).

## Westminster Happenings

<b>Sunday Sept 29</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting</b> 9:50 A.M. in WPC sanctuary Elect a Nominating Committee to identify 2020's potential new Session members.
	<b>Rock 'n' Roll Road Trip to Ware Shoals Presbyterian Church</b> 11:00 A.M. in WSPC sanctuary Let your spirit soar in a spirited service of worship through music.
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	<b>Grand Time</b> 9:30 A.M. to noon in the nursery/playground area Bring your grandchildren for a grand time of sharing and fun!
<b>Sunday Oct 6</b>	<b>Communion Service</b> 10:00 A.M. in Westminster sanctuary Celebrate the joy of sharing in God's family feast.
<b>Sunday Oct 13</b>	<b>Westminster Stated Session Meeting</b> 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor Listen and share your thoughts about the governance of your church.
<b>Monday Oct 14</b>	<b>Presbyterian Women</b> 11:00 A.M. in the church parlor. Be ready to continue discussing <i>Love Carved in Stone</i> and enjoy lunch with Greenwood Place (see page 6; reservations required by 10/7).
<b>Wednesday Oct 16</b>	<b>Bible, Brews, &amp; Pizza: Men's Bible Study</b> 6:30 P.M. @ Len Bornemann's home: 117 Creekside court Bring your Bible, your favorite beer or soda, and an appetite...for Bible knowledge <i>and</i> for pizza (see page 5; RSVP requested).
<b>Thursday Oct 17</b>	<b>NAMI Meeting</b> 6:30 P.M. in the church parlor Contact Mary Linn Touchberry for details (mltouchberry1952@gmail.com).
<b>Sunday Oct 27</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting</b> 9:50 A.M. in the Westminster sanctuary Elect new Session members for 2020.
<b>November</b>	<b>Coming soon:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stewardship season</li><li>• Special offering for Thornwell Children's Home</li><li>• Dedication of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child</li></ul>

## WPC's Got Talent! Which of Yours Will You Share?

As Christians, we are charged with giving our time, our talent, and our treasure to God's glory. So what talents do *you* have that you can commit to service? If you've got the time, we've got the needs!



**Photographer:** capture pictures of our church in action. If you can help us preserve and share Westminster memories, please contact Pastor Caroline Dennis.



**Nursery Volunteer:** assist Laine Horowitz with the nursery on Sunday mornings. If you are able to help one Sunday every other month, please contact Flora Hobson.



**Newsletter Editor:** gather items of interest, format the newsletter, and deliver to the congregation. If you enjoy listening, writing, and designing, let Claire Kuhl know you are interested.



**Social Media Maven:** share the good news of Westminster through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram—wherever we might reach those looking for a church home. Visit our Facebook page regularly, and share our posts on your page. If you can help with other channels, contact Pastor Caroline with your ideas.



**Musician:** provide special music during worship. Perfection is *not* required! Accompaniment is available if desired. If you are willing to make a joyful noise, tell Lynn Bornemann.

*18 God has placed each part in the body just as He wanted it to be. 19 If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? ... 27 You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.*  
1 Corinthians 12

## Men's Bible Study Takes on Genesis *by Phillip Dennis*

Six beer-loving knowledge-seekers attended the revived **Bible, Beer and Pizza** session on Tuesday, September 10th. Many thanks to Joseph Key for hosting.

To those who attended, just remember: if the beer was unsatisfactory, we have only ourselves to blame, as it was a BYOB event. The pizza, which came from Marco's, was quite fine. In fact, we might order from there again next time, which would make it re-Marco-ble pizza. LOL



And the Bible...well...it is the Word of God, so that's about as good as it gets! We started at the very beginning (a very good place to start, according to Julie Andrews) and talked about how the first chapters of Genesis give unique insight into what's most important about God.

The conversation was thoughtful, personal, and light-hearted, and we've decided to give it another shot next month. We promise you a chair, a few slices, and a few laughs if you can make it on **Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 at Len Bornemann's home: 117 Creekside court.**

Hope to see you then and there! Please RSVP to Bill Jacobs so he can order the right number of pies. Email him at: [clemsongunsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:clemsongunsmith@hotmail.com).

*7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*  
Proverbs 1:7

*5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

James 1:5

## Presbyterian Women Growing, Making a Difference

The Presbyterian Women's Circle is off to a strong start for the 2019-2020 year. So many women attended the September meeting that president Louise Taber has had to find a larger meeting space! For that reason, the Monday, October 14, 2019 meeting will convene at 11:00 A.M. in the Sunday School/Choir Room.

Mary Anne Wilson will lead discussion of the lesson from *Love carved in Stone*.

Following the lesson and brief business meeting, the group will go upstairs for lunch with Greenwood Place. PW participants will have an opportunity to make personal connections and new friends among the GP members.



Additionally, women are encouraged to bring a cash donation to cover lunch costs, and an in-kind gift. Your contribution of paper towels, printer paper, or other consumables will make a positive difference for Greenwood Place. When budgets are tight, every little bit helps!

Thanks to survey results and group discussion, Westminster's Women are committed to hands-on service activities throughout the year. One of the first ministries identified is to share love and hope through greeting cards.

This month, our special card ministry focus is on Larry and Licia Duncan, and their daughter, Kiersty, who is wrestling with cancer. Please send your cards to Kiersty, Licia, and Larry at Kiersty's address:

8710 Redwood Bend  
Helotes, TX 78023

To further support Kiersty, we sent her a gift card, and are crocheting a prayer shawl to be a long-distance hug from WPC.



## Letters from the Lakeside

Even though the summer campers have scampered home, things are still hopping at Camp Fellowship! Consider adding these activities to your Fall calendar:

- **Fall for Fellowship—a gathering of Presbyterians, Friends, and Neighbors.** On October 20<sup>th</sup>, savor fellowship, picnic supper, and an Evening Vespers along the shore. There is no charge for the event, but a love offering will be received in support of the ministry of Camp Fellowship.
- **Adult Retreat.** The event begins the morning of Friday, October 25 and continues through lunch on Saturday, October 26. This year's theme is "Say *What?! Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice: from 8<sup>th</sup> century prophets to the church of today.*"
- **Red Cross Training.** Join us at Camp Fellowship on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. to learn life-saving skills and certification in First Aid and CPR.

Course components and certification include:

- + Adult & Pediatric CPR/First Aid
- + AED
- + Anaphylaxis/Epi-Pen
- + Asthma/Inhaler

This is a full-day professional continuing education event. The \$75 registration fee includes snacks, lunch, course, and certification fees. ***Class size limited – register today!***

For details and to register online, visit: <https://www.campfellowship.org>. Click on Events & Programs and select Programs & Event Dates.

## Sunday Study Series: Building Community with the Mentally Ill

Only two more Sundays remain in our study on mental illness-related topics:



- **A Biblical Perspective on Mental Illness** – Caroline Dennis, Pastor; 9/22/19
- **Bringing Mental Illness Out of the Shadows: Where does WPC Go from Here?** – Claire Kuhl; 9/29/19

It's *never* too late to become part of this fascinating journey at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday!

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

### Myth: There is no hope for people with mental health problems.

**Fact:** Studies show that people with mental health problems can get better and many recover completely. Recovery refers to the process in which people are able to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. There are more treatments, services, and community support systems than ever before, and they work.

**Note:** Westminster is proudly playing a significant role in providing community support systems by hosting NAMI group sessions and providing space for Greenwood Place.



*What more could we/should we be doing to help break the silence and squash the stigma?*

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### Emergency Funding Request for Greenwood Place

*A note from Fred Murphy, Greenwood Place Executive Director:*

“First, I would like to thank everyone for their concern and support of Greenwood Place. As you have heard, Greenwood Place is experiencing a short fall in our funding, and I would like to provide some additional insight into this issue. Last year, the Department of Mental Health provided \$100,000 in funding for the Clubhouse. ...

[T]his month, we were notified that we were not in the budget for this year. We are now working with our local legislative representatives to have this corrected for next year.

With that said, we are in need of funding to keep our doors open. In the past, Greenwood Place has worked with Self Regional for additional funding. ... [W]e have received positive feedback from them. [T]hey have been very supportive of our mission. ...

Greenwood Place has established a GoFundMe page, (Greenwood Place Funding 2019). If you will share this with your Facebook friends, that would be a great service to Greenwood Place. Also, if you are aware of other avenues, please let me know. If you have any questions, please contact me, and I will be happy to answer them and to review our needs with you. Thank you for your prayers and your concern for Greenwood Place.”



## And God Saw It Was Good!



Self-described “stay-at-home/working Dad” Ody Sholar and his son, John, joined our Grand Time on Tuesday morning. If you would like to join in the fun, contact Lynn Bornemann for more information, [lynnbornemann@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnbornemann@yahoo.com).



Susan Pope brightened our sanctuary with the gift of these beautiful flowers in honor of her mother, Ruthmary McColl Pope who would have been 98 on September 15. Flower dedications can be arranged by contacting Holly Hubbard, [hubbardholly07@gmail.com](mailto:hubbardholly07@gmail.com).



The staff, officers and Sunday Study class and congregation pray for one another, our community, and world. Prayer boxes and prayer sheets are available in our narthex and office hall. Please share your joys and concerns with us, so we can hold them before God in prayer.



Check-in to Westminster on Facebook when you come to church for worship or an event. Share a story about our church, or share an event from our webpage with your friends. [https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterGWD\\*](https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterGWD*)

## And God Saw It Was Good!



*Meet Lee Haskins, WPC's new Office Manager. She hit the ground running, and is already making a positive contribution to the life of the church.*



*Mitch Litwer graciously provided photographic coverage of Westminster's mental health awareness event, featuring keynote speaker, Sarah Lund (above, right), via Skype. The presentation was well-attended by WPC members and others from a broad cross-section of Greenwood and our region. As noted by one visitor, "This was excellent—we need so much more community awareness. Thank you!"*