

The October Link



October 2016

Westminster Celebrates 60 Years!

**Westminster celebrates 60 years
Sunday, October 9: Worship at 11 AM,
followed by dinner and program at 12:15 PM.**

RSVP in the fellowship hall entry, or by calling the church office (734-761-9320).



From Our Pastor

Congregational Self-Study Gets Underway

I am pleased to announce that at their last meeting Session approved the team that will conduct the congregational self-study required at the beginning of a pastoral search: Bryce Babcock, Betty Chaffee, Sharon Cloke, Cathy Daniels, Ralph Lange, Joan Piatt, Bruce Spiher and Doug Tidd. Please let them know you are grateful for their commitment, and hold them in prayer.

They will solicit congregational input through an online research tool that all members and regular attendees will be able to fill out. Please stay tuned to information regarding when and how to access this material online. If you do not use a computer, not to worry; we will send you the materials by mail. The survey will be available to you for 3 weeks, starting

October 17. I strongly encourage you to participate and fill it out in a timely manner, as this is the congregation's only chance to give input into the search. And it is so important that you do!

On another (but related) note, a new Prayer Ministry Team has formed, and you will soon hear from them as well. They hope to have everyone in the church praying for Westminster this year. God is good – and through all our trials and joys and fears and hopes – God will remain faithful and hear our prayers.

Grace and peace,

Judy
Judy

Engaging Our Neighbors

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. —1 Peter 4:10

October is Mission Awareness Month

This month is filled with opportunities to learn about Westminster and Presbyterian mission outreach, to expand our awareness of needs and opportunities, and to serve together to engage with our community. Don't miss a thing! Everyone can learn and offer a gift of service.

GIVE: Mission Month Donations Drive: Bring new and gently used items and food to help our neighbors. Check the list of needed items here. Schedule furniture pick-up at your home on October 29 by calling 734-213-0067.

PRAY: Email Devotions and Prayers: Connect with the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s stories of God at work as described in daily Mission Yearbook entries.

LEARN: Sunday Mornings Special Speakers and Topics: 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall

- **October 2, Friends in Deed:** Sarah Thornburg describes how FID's programs have been changing lives for 30 years, including through their *Circles* program, a new and promising approach to helping people out of poverty.
- **October 16, American Friends Service Committee Good Neighbor Project:** Demetrius Titus presents *Restorative Compassion: Our Part Toward Making a Difference*. We're all affected by the success or failure of our criminal justice system. Learn how we can positively impact prisoner lives and the public discourse on punishment in Michigan.
- **October 23, Samaritas:** Kelly Nieman Anderson speaks on the refugee crisis and on how Europeans are sharing God's love with refugees.

THANK YOU for your joyful service and for your gifts of food and new and gently used items to help the needy. We hope you'll enjoy this Mission Awareness Month.

Worship that does not lead to neighborly compassion and justice cannot be faithful worship of YHWH.
—Walter Brueggemann



SERVE: Neighborhood Walks:

Spend a delightful hour or two walking through the Westminster neighborhood, distributing collection drive bags to neighbors' doors. (No soliciting!) Sign up in the fellowship hall entry to walk one or more times, October 19–24. (Special thanks to Lucky's Markets for donating 1,000 grocery bags.)

WORSHIP AND SERVE: Servant Sunday,

October 30: The whole church gathers to worship at 9:30 AM, and then we offer our service to neighbors until 12:30 PM. Choose your project: Sign up in the entry to the fellowship hall.

9:15 AM Check in; receive name tags and directions

9:30 AM Gather in the sanctuary for worship

10:15 AM Serve our neighbors

12:30 PM Gather for benediction and light lunch

SORT AND DELIVER

Westminster and neighbor donations to needy area agencies, October 31–November 4. Sign up in the fellowship hall entry.

Mission Outreach Highlights

All open Westminster outreach opportunities are posted on the Mission bulletin board.

Refugee Support Volunteer Fair, Monday, October 3, 7–9 PM: Washtenaw Refugee Welcome holds its first volunteer fair at Zion Lutheran Church (1501 W. Liberty Street 48103). Join others from our congregation to learn about ways to serve, to sign up to help, and to receive orientation. If your heart has been moved by the refugee crisis, come and turn your goodwill into action. Sign up on the Mission bulletin board, or simply show up at Zion on Monday evening. Westminster is a founding member of Washtenaw Refugee Welcome, a multi-congregational refugee support initiative.

Hill Mercy House Meal, Sunday, November 13: Sign up starting in mid-October on the Mission board or online. Help provide food, or even better, join the crew serving the meal, and meet the wonderful community gathered at Hill Mercy House. Please contact Amy Ticknor for more information.

Riverside Community Gathering Birthday Cakes: You can do it! Make a cake (for 50!) for a monthly community birthday celebration. If possible, deliver and help serve it. Bakers are needed starting January 2017. For more information, please contact Sue Flynn or Katherine Simpson.

Events & Announcements

Eat. Learn. Live.

Saturday, October 8, 8 AM

October 8, our guest speakers are Nancy and Panz Alvarez, “Story Runners” with Campus Crusade for Christ. Story Runners help unreached language groups hear the gospel in a format they understand: oral Bible storytelling. All are welcome for breakfast, followed by Nancy and Panz’s presentation. Please sign up in the fellowship hall entry. Suggested donation: \$3 per person.



Do-si-do and Allemande Left

Westminster Square Dance, Saturday, October 15, 6:30–9 PM

Couples, singles, youths, plan now to come and dance! Do you know how to do-si-do? Allemande left? No worries: Our square dance caller will begin the evening with instructions, so you can learn quickly and enjoy an active and social evening. Invite friends to join us. Please sign up in the fellowship hall entry; cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for youths.

Switzerland, Andermatt to Zuoz

Sixty Plus Club, Friday, October 21, NOON

Jan and Bill Werner take us on a tour of Switzerland at our next meeting, Friday, October 21. RSVP to Phoebe Vance or sign up in the fellowship hall entry. All are welcome!



Extraordinary Film Series Resumes in November

This season’s Extraordinary Film series begins November 12, with *Beyond the Blackboard*, a movie inspired by the real-life story of a teacher determined to teach a classroom full of homeless children in spite of her meager resources. Future films in the series include *Captive* (January 21); *Friendly Persuasion* (February 18); and *The 33* (March 18). Movie nights start at 6 PM, with snacks and discussion following.

Visible Unity in the Body of Christ

On Sunday, September 25, the youth programs of Trinity Lutheran Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church officially launched their partnership. The day kicked off with middle school youths and parents attending a lunch meeting at Trinity, and then preparing for and participating in the Crop Walk.

Later that evening the high school students met at West Park for an evening of introductions, surprises and fun. A lively and rather non-official game of Quidditch, with players mounted on pool noodles, ended in a 30-30 tie, following the chase and capture of Golden Snitch Tom Brown.

Having worked up an appetite, we went to Trinity pastor Sara Freudenburg's for homemade pizza. Partners created their own pizzas. Thomas Young and his Trinity pizza partner made a sausage and strawberry pizza, to which they both gave rave reviews.

Friendships were created and strengthened over the course of the evening. Ryan Klooster discovered a fellow theater-lover from Trinity; both are currently seriously engaged in the theatre community at their respective schools. Olivia Gregory discovered



that Ali, one of her good school friends, is a member at Trinity. It was a surprise for both girls that the other was there. Witnessing them explode with excitement and joy as they ran to welcome

each other in a huge embrace each other in welcome, was a special moment, a glimpse of a growing cloud of witnesses and a broadening faith community.

After dinner, over root beer floats, we each shared highs and lows and a favorite story from our respective faith communities. We ended by sharing prayer concerns and reflections on how we've seen faith at work during the previous week at school.

Watching these two groups of preteens and teens, from different denominations, schools, backgrounds, interests and ages willingly and joyfully join themselves to "the other" is a testament to what it means to be the Body of Christ. In the words of Pastor Sara, who made clear that our collaboration is not to be viewed as us-and-them, "This is one youth group."

Special go thanks to Tom Brown for being the Golden Snitch; welcome back, Tom Brown! You and your faith will impact yet another generation. Thanks also to Lat Brown and Ryan Klooster for being on the Quidditch planning and implementation team. Your expertise and service enabled us to play well together as we got to know each other.

On Sunday, our youths indeed demonstrated that the Kingdom is here among us. We look forward to more of the same as faith and friendships continue to grow through our partnership with Trinity.



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