



Mutual Upbuilding

**"Let us pursue what makes for peace
and for mutual upbuilding"
(Romans 14:19)**

This was the centering verse at the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference, which I attended with several of our middle schoolers at the start of July. It's a short verse, but it's stuck with me all summer after hearing it repeated throughout our week at camp. We talked about the many ways we are called as Christians to work for peace, and to support one another through intentional acts of inclusion, kindness, and interrupting injustice.

I wasn't surprised to see our own kind and gracious middle schoolers living this out. But there's something powerful about gathering with hundreds of youth all genuinely invested in kindness and compassion. These students are being the church in real, tangible ways, and I learned a lot from them all.

Our keynote speaker introduced the idea of "Buddy Benches," a designated bench on some school playgrounds where people can sit if they're feeling lonely or want a friend. It's a simple, nonverbal way to signal a need, which others can respond to by

joining them or inviting them to play. Several middle schoolers in my small group told me how they've used Buddy Benches at their own schools, both when needing a friend and offering friendship. It was a powerful example of youth pursuing peace and mutual upbuilding in a small but impactful way.

This all made me think how much adults could use something similar. You may be long past middle school, but the need for inclusion and human connection never goes away. As a church, I wonder how we could be more intentional in including and seeking out those who may be lonely or overlooked in our community, remembering that sometimes the loneliest people don't look lonely at all.

As summer continues, may we keep pursuing peace and mutual upbuilding, paying attention to the people around us who may feel overlooked. You're never too old to invite someone to sit with you in the cafeteria, even if the cafeteria now looks like a church pew, a coffee outing, or a walk around the neighborhood.

Peace,
Rev. Hannah Lundberg



Engaging Our Neighbors

Sack Lunches for HOPE



One simple lunch can make a real difference.

As summer winds down and fall begins, Westminster's Mission Ministry Team is once again collecting items for our Sack Lunches for Hope Clinic. Approximately 100 lunches are distributed every day through Hope Clinic. Together, we can help make sure those lunches are available.

While the lunches are simple, they provide nourishment, dignity, and hope to people who need them most. This year's goal is to assemble 96 in '26 every time! Won't you join us?

What to Donate?

Please choose foods that are:

- Individually wrapped or in pop-top cans (no can opener needed)

- Ready to eat, since many recipients do not have access to a stove or microwave
- The sizes listed on the sign-up, as space in each lunch bag is limited

Visit our website to sign up!

Prefer to Donate Funds Instead?

If shopping isn't convenient, monetary donations are also welcome! Give online through the Westminster online giving page or by check. Please note "Hope Lunches" on your donation, and a member of the Mission Ministry Team will happily shop on your behalf.

Collection Dates

Please drop off donations at Westminster from Sunday, **August 16** through Sunday, **September 13**. Collection bins will be located at both the Scio Church and West entrances.

Want to Help Pack the Lunches?

We'd love to have you join us! If you have questions or would like to help assemble the lunches, please contact: Lynda Berg (lrwberg@sbcglobal.net).



Blessing of the Animals

Join us for a joyful and interactive Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, August 23rd at 7pm! Bring a pet, a photo of a beloved animal (wild or domestic), a stuffed animal, or just yourself.

We'll begin with a brief outdoor worship service, reflecting on how God's love is revealed through our furry, feathered, and scaly friends. Then we'll mingle through stations offering blessings for animals and people, treats and toys for pets in attendance, and crafts to help care for creatures in the wider world.

Our Life Together



Summer Choir and Baptisms from June!

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday, September 20, following worship. We'll share lunch together, receive the annual report, and hear from select ministry teams. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this important gathering!



Game Night!

Come for First-Friday Game Night on August 7, 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite game or maybe try a new one. You're also welcome to just come and hang out. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend and introduce them to the great people of Westminster!

Fall Worship Time Change

Believe it or not, Fall will be here before we know it! We will continue our Summer Schedule through Labor Day weekend, and then we will return to 11am worship on Sunday, September 13.

Learn and Grow Together

Reading Through the Bible Group meets Sundays at 11:15am in the Library and via Zoom over the summer. Contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) for more information.

Sunday Morning Adult Ed meets in the fellowship hall at 9am for the summer.

Children and Youth Faith Formation is off for the summer and will resume in the fall. Contact Cathy Daniels (catld1121@gmail.com) for more info.

Monday Conversations are weekly at 2:30pm online: an opportunity to discuss Sunday's sermon in a small group. The Zoom invitation is in the Friday *Good Things* and Sunday podcast emails.

Mary Martha Group meets the first and third Mondays at 7pm via Zoom. Contact Margaret Klammer (mklammer@comcast.net) for more information.

Matthew 25 Study Group meets at 7pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. For meeting information, please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizabeth0405@yahoo.com) or Carol Hufnagel (carol.hufnagel@tetrattech.com).

Thursday Book Club is off for the summer and will resume in the fall. Contact Linda Harnisch for more information (rlharnisch@gmail.com).

We thank you for continuing to fulfill your pledges and financial commitments (online or by mailing checks) in support of the mission and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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