

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Father's DAY

JUNE 2024

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Psalm 1:1-5

WESTMINSTER NEWS
WPC

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FINDING HOPE

Almost everything we hear or read in the daily news is about something we wish was different but feel powerless to change.

Amidst the turmoil of these days, there is a beacon of hope that Christians can embrace and share. This hope is not a mere wish but a profound assurance that the world cannot replicate or obliterate.

In the Dennison forum, they wrote:

"V-E Day is celebrated in Great Britain and the United States and signifies the end of World War II in Europe. But before there could be V-E Day, there had to be D-Day nearly a year earlier. D-Day marked the beginning of the end for Hitler's forces. The war still raged between D-Day and V-E Day, but its outcome was determined. You and I live between D-Day, when our Lord invaded our fallen planet, and V-Day, when He will return. Conflicts of all natures still rage and impact our lives, but the outcome is sure (cf. Matthew 25:31)."

In that truth, we can have hope. Such hope is not a wish for something that may or may not happen but the present expectation of what will be experienced in its fullness.

FINDING HOPE CONT.

Research confirms that hope, tied with a sense of purpose and meaning, lowers levels of depression, and people are less lonely.

High-hope people experience better physical health and a reduced risk of mortality, chronic illness, cancer, and sleep problems.

Given these findings, it's clear that hope is a precious commodity. Renowned psychologist and Pulitzer Prize winner Erik Erikson believed that hope was the bedrock of a fulfilling life, a belief that aligns with the Scriptures. Research further supports this, showing that religious beliefs, practices, and communities are potent sources of hope. Indeed, people of faith living in close-knit, supportive communities are more likely to be hopeful.

The apostles often refer to Christian hope in the New Testament, and it is easy for us to read our modern understanding of the term into Scripture, believing that Christian hope lacks certainty. However, our hope as Christians does not refer to something that may or may not be; instead, it is grounded in events that will surely come to pass. Hoping in God means that we expect Him to be true to His Word. And, as Dwight Moody noted: "God never made a promise that was too good to be true."

In the meantime, we can remember all God has done as we trust Him for all He will do.

Andy



God loves You.



HYMN STORIES

We sometimes sing the hymn, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” during our worship service. Recently, I found this interesting story about that hymn in a book titled, *Devotionals from Famous Hymn Stories*, by Lindsay L Terry.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson’s father passed away when Robert was only eight years old. As soon as he was old enough, he got a job as an apprentice to a barber. Because of the hardship of having to be the breadwinner for his widowed mother and himself, his formal education was limited. However, his knowledge was varied and extensive because he spent many hours in study.

Robert Robinson was born in Norfolk, England, in September 1735. As he grew older, he came under the influence of the great evangelist, George Whitfield. He became convicted of his terrible, sinful ways. On December 10, 1755, Robinson could not escape from a particular phrase used by Mr. Whitfield in one of his sermons: “Oh, my hearers! The wrath to come! The wrath to come!” He was wondrously converted and became a minister of the Gospel; first, in a Baptist church, then in a Methodist church, and later in other denominations. Then, unfortunately, he became altogether unstable and unhappy. Some would call it “backsliding.”

He found himself one day the fellow passenger of a young lady on a stagecoach. It is reported that she began to sing to break the monotony of the trip. And what did she sing?

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount—I’m fixed upon it—
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

She asked him what he thought about the song, and his startling reply was: “Madam, I am the unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago; and, I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, if I could feel now as I felt then.”

REFLECTION: May you never stray farther than the fingertips of the Lord; every morning and evening come close to His heart!

Carolyn Hansen

Music Director

A PLACE FOR YOU

If you were to close your eyes and think of a quiet, peaceful, tranquil, serene place,
I wonder what would come to your mind.
Perhaps a seashore where you sit on the sand and feel the waves wash softly around you,
or
a lake where you could sit in a small boat and listen to the birds call
and the water lap against the side of your boat,
or maybe a small bonfire out in the woods
listening to the crackling of the embers as they slowly begin to die out.
I have felt the presence of God in places like those.
I'm certain you have too.

Here at W.P.C., while we can't transport you to one of those quiet places,
we do, however, have a room that will instill a feeling of tranquility and peacefulness.

A room that is called the **Prayer Room**,
where you can come and get away
and talk to God.

Gender and age don't matter.

Come alone or bring a friend or two to pray with you or talk with you
or just to sit and be with you.

If you feel you can't sit through the church service for some reason,
the service will be on the T.V. monitor in the Prayer Room.

The prayer team will use the room for its regular gatherings
but most of the time it will be available for you.

Some comfy chairs, a few lamps and tables will be added during the summer
but kept simple, without clutter to distract our attention from God.

Though not quite finished, it's ready for use as is right now.

So, stop by and look.

It's for you to use as needed.

It's across from the choir room and adjacent to the library.

Come and pray or feel the presence of God.

Dian Poochigian

Prayer Deacon



CINCO DE MAYO

It was a wonderful celebration of Cinco de Mayo on May 5th in our Family Life Center.


The fellowship committee served up a taco bar, beans and rice casserole, chips and dip, lemon cake, and the ever popular frozen Margaritas!

Non-alcoholic of course!

Julie Jeppesen taught us about the holiday itself and then Rosie and Eddie Navarro led us in a dual language prayer.

Thank you to everyone who came!





So many people have asked for the recipes for the Cinco de Mayo lunch that we decided to just include them in the newsletter. What a wonderful way to fellowship and thank God for His many blessings as you share these meals with others.

Mock Margaritas

If you're craving a margarita but you don't want the alcohol, make these non-alcoholic Mock Margaritas.

Prep Time 15minutes

Servings 12 servings

Calories 139kcal

INGREDIENTS

One 12-ounce can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed

One 12-ounce can frozen limeade concentrate, thawed

1 cup powdered sugar

6 cups crushed ice

lime wedges

margarita salt

1 liter bottle club soda, chilled

INSTRUCTIONS

Process half of lemonade, half of limeade, 1/2 cup powdered sugar and 3 cups of crushed ice in blender. Pour into a 4 liter jug. Repeat with remaining ingredients and pour that into the jug too.

Place into a freezer until mixture becomes firm. Can also be stored in freezer bags.

Remove from freezer 30 minutes before serving. Rub rims of glasses with lime wedges; place salt in flat bowl and dip glass rims into salt. Add club soda to the lemon/lime mixture, stirring until it becomes slushy. Pour into prepared glasses.



Crock Pot Margarita Chicken Dip

Prep Time 10 minutes

Cook Time 1 hour

Total Time 1hour 10 minutes

Servings 12

Calories 235kcal

Ingredients

12 oz cream cheese, softened

1 1/2 cups chicken, cooked and shredded
(a rotisserie chicken works well)

2 1/2 cups Monterrey jack cheese, shredded

1/4 cup tequila

1/4 cup lime juice

1 tbsp lime zest

2 tbsp fresh orange juice


1 tsp kosher salt

1 tsp cumin

2 cloves garlic, minced

Small container of Pico de Gallo
(store bought or homemade)

Instructions

1. Cut the cream cheese into small cubes (approximately 1 inch) and layer across the bottom of a medium sized crock pot.
 2. Spread the shredded chicken over top of the cream cheese and cover with shredded cheese. Add the remaining ingredients to the crock pot.
 3. Turn the crock pot on high, cover, and heat for about an hour or until the dip is heated through. Stir the dip several times as it is warming up to mix the ingredients together and keep the bottom from browning.
 4. Serve warm with tortilla chips and top with Pico de Gallo.
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Mexican Rice and Beans

Serves 10 as a side dish.

1 can (15 oz) black beans, drained and rinsed

10 oz frozen whole kernel corn

1 c uncooked long grain white rice

16 oz thick and chunky mild salsa

1 1/2 c vegetable juice (V-8)

1/4 tsp ground cumin

1/4 tsp dried oregano

3/4 c shredded Cheddar cheese

- Combine all ingredients except cheese. Pour into a 13x9 baking pan and bake covered at 375 for 55-60 minutes, stirring once halfway through cooking time, until rice is tender.
- Sprinkle with cheese.
- Let stand 2-3 minutes until cheese is melted.

BOOK CLUB

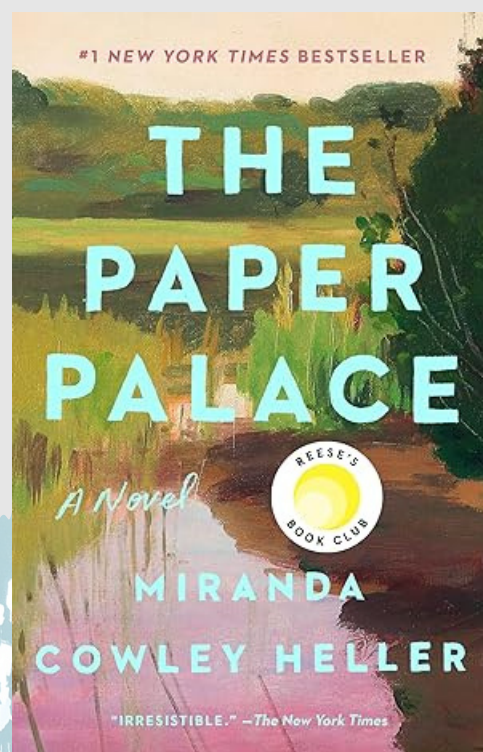
The WPC Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, June 18th, at 1:30 PM in the West Conference Room of the church. The book for our discussion will be *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller.

You can pick up a copy of the book in the church office so you can read it before the meeting. All are welcome to attend the meeting. Always an empty chair is waiting for you.

"A story of summer, secrets, love, and lies: in the course of a singular day on Cape Cod, one woman must make a life-changing decision that has been brewing for decades.

'This house, this place, knows all my secrets.'

It is a perfect August morning, and Elle, a fifty-year-old happily married mother of three, awakens at "The Paper Palace"—the family summer place which she has visited every summer of her life. But this morning is different: last night Elle and her oldest friend Jonas crept out the back door into the darkness and had sex with each other for the first time, all while their spouses chatted away inside. Now, over the next twenty-four hours, Elle will have to decide between the life she has made with her genuinely beloved husband, Peter, and the life she always imagined she would have had with her childhood love, Jonas, if a tragic event hadn't forever changed the course of their lives. As Heller colors in the experiences that have led Elle to this day, we arrive at her ultimate decision with all its complexity. Tender yet devastating, *The Paper Palace* considers the tensions between desire and dignity, the legacies of abuse, and the crimes and misdemeanors of families." (Amazon.com)



WPC NEW CRAFT/ART ROOM

“And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills-to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts.”

Exodus 35:31-33



GOD WANTS YOU TO PUT YOUR TALENTS TO WORK!

Westminster's new craft/art room is in the beginning stages of construction. Bob Hall has built two tables and Jeff Stutes found some shelving for storing materials. This room is located downstairs in the first two rooms on the right. Our goal is to have a teaching time where people can come and share their crafting ideas. We would like to have this up and running by the fall.

If you or you know someone who would be willing to come in and teach a “make and take” class, contact Sue Ludwigs.

We have a wish list of craft items that could be donated and would be useful in our new work area.

Sue Ludwigs

Here is a starter wish list of craft items:

- Markers assorted colors
- Colored pencils
- Acrylic paints assorted colors
- Foam paint brushes assorted sizes
- Scotch tape
- Painters tape
- Double sided craft tape
- Glue
- Card stock assorted colors
- Needle nose pliers
- Wire cutter
- Crafting floral wire any color
- Zip ties medium size
- Pipe cleaners white
- Craft cutting mat
- Decorative scissors
- Fishing line



MEMORIAL

WEEKEND

We are blessed to have a nation of brave men and women who have sacrificed greatly for our country. Our great nation celebrates and commemorates their memory on Memorial Day in honor of their courage and service.



A Prayer for Memorial Day

Dear God,

We thank you for the freedom you have given to us, and for the price that was paid by Christ so that we could live free.

We remember today.

The cost of it all.

The great sacrifice for freedom.

We thank you for the brave men and women who have fought, and continue to fight, so courageously for our nation. We ask for your covering and blessing over them and their families. We pray that you would be gracious and encircle them with your peace. We pray for your great favor and goodness to be evident in their lives.



Please be with all those who wear the uniform, who serve our communities and nation every single day. We ask that you provide your protection, that you would be their guiding force who leads the way, and their rear guard who keeps them safe from behind.

We ask that you would draw them to yourself amidst the dangers they face in a dark world, for you are the Truth, you are the Way, you are the Light. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





Happy
FATHER'S
Day

June 16



Happy Birthday!


- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 03 Rhea Britton | 24 Ken Bromann |
| 04 Andy Mack | 25 Sue Ludwigs |
| 08 Marcie Martin | 25 Larry Trahant |
| 13 Shelia Westerfield | 27 Jean Trahant |
| 14 Barbara Halsey | 28 John Hendricks |
| 15 Paige Withey | 28 Peg Proud-Edwards |
| 21 Julie Bromann | 28 Jim Szymanski |
| 22 Dorothy McCormack | |



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 NORTH EDGELAWN DRIVE
AURORA, IL 60506**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Kerry Proczko- Newsletter Editor
Barbara Halsey- Proof Reader



**OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER!**

Psalm 107:1