

The Good News

*"Striving to share Christ's love with all of
God's people"*



*Westminster
Presbyterian Church*

*3819 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913*

We are not there yet.

The church is just two to three weeks into the season of Lent. As I have reminded you, and many of you already know, Lent is a time of self-reflection and prayer as we move toward the church's grand celebration of Easter. But with the days warming and sunny weather outdoors we are tempted to think that our Lenten time of waiting is over, and it is now time to celebrate the arrival of Spring and Easter Sunday. But we're not there yet. The season of Lent is not over; Holy Week and Good Friday lie ahead. We have much to do before we consider the "Hallelujahs" of Easter.

We must consider why Jesus wanted to go to Jerusalem and face ridicule and violence at the hands of the religious leaders. We can wave our palm leaves on Palm Sunday, as long as we remember that the same crowd that shouted, "Hosanna," shouted, "Crucify him!" five days later. We haven't yet shared the Passover meal with Jesus and the disciples; we haven't made the hard journey up the rugged hill of Calvary; we haven't felt the earth tremble and quake at the moment Jesus died. All of this, and more, happened because God so loved this world, including you and me, that God went to the cross and died for us. And God did so even though we are completely unworthy of it. There is still much to consider, reflect upon, and pray about during what's left of the season of Lent.

Easter is coming.

But we are not there yet.

I hope to see you in church.

Pastor Carl

Songs for the Journey:
Praying the Psalms through Lent

Each Monday in Lent, you are invited to gather as a faith community. Worship begins in the host sanctuary at 12:10pm and a simple lunch follows.

Feb 23	Westminster Presbyterian Church with Rev. Leslie Roper
March 2	Oaklawn United Methodist Church with Rev. David Fleming
March 9	First United Methodist Church with Fr. Mark Nabors
March 16	Grand Avenue United Methodist Church with Rev. Carl McCormack
March 23	St. Luke's Episcopal Church with Rev. Tonya Hancock
March 30	First Presbyterian Church with Rev. J. J. Galloway



*March Milestones
Happy Birthday To:*

- 04 *Bill McCallum*
- 05 *Bob Still*
- 5 *Aaron Norton*
- 14 *Mariko McCallum*
- 15 *Arul Biji*
- 24 *Sherri Randall*
- 25 *Delvis Garner*
- 27 *Jill Lancaster*
- 30 *Cindy Goldman*
- 31 *John Vaughan*
- 31 *Debbie Varnell*



Happy Anniversary To:

*Delvis & Ginny Garner
3/7/1975*

*Kenneth & Claire Rhodes
3/19/1990*

*Lucas & Emily Segal
3/21/2020*



*Breakfast
Men of the Church
Wednesday
March 4
8:15 a.m.
Higdon Square Café*

March 8



*Daylight Saving Time
SPRING FORWARD*

Fellowship Luncheon



During the
“Souper Bowl
of Caring”
fellowship



luncheon held on February 15, \$185 was donated and 150 canned foods were collected. All donations were designated to give to Jackson House for their distribution to those in need.

Mission/Evangelism Committee

The holiday season found the committee purchasing blankets and emergency blankets with \$407 in November Dollar Giving and small space heaters with December and January Dollar Giving. Christmas Joy offering for national relief for needy church leaders and new leader development totaled \$390. February Dollar giving was designated to fund food gift cards that office staff can give to people needing assistance. At the full committee meeting on February 15 it was decided that budgeted first-quarter General Mission funds will be divided among Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic, Potter’s Clay Shelter, and Community Resource Center with each receiving \$400. March Dollar giving will go to Arkansas Presbytery disaster Preparedness and Response efforts. One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 5, to “serve the most vulnerable people around the world.”

Please support Westminster Evangelism by inviting friends, family, and neighbors to Lenten worship, fellowship luncheons, circle, Sunday school, or men’s breakfasts.

Thank you. . .

Thank you to our church family for all the care and support you have shown to our family and to us upon the death of our mom. Your prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, and hugs helped lift us up in this difficult time.

Hasstedt Family,
Lawrence and Debbie Grubb

Catherine Circle of Presbyterian Women

Sara Ferril will host and lead discussion of Lesson 7, "Holy Week: A time to Embrace and a Time to Refrain from Embracing" at the Circle meeting to be held at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, March 10. Planning will proceed for the Spring Gathering of Arkansas Presbyterian Women to be held in Hot Springs April 17-19.

A light lunch will be available at 12 noon on March 10 for all Circle members and after lunch, we will fill plastic Easter eggs before the 1:30 meeting. Specific candies that fit and work well for First Step students are Tootsie roll minis, tootsie roll fruit minis, wrapped chocolate kisses and mini chocolate eggs (no nuts, peanut butter or hard candy please.)

Christian Education Committee

The Wednesday noon verse-by-verse Bible study has begun the study of the Gospel of Mark. Lent is the perfect time to start or re-commit to deep Bible exploration with Lawrence Grubb as leader. The Senior High Youth and friends will meet for lunch and activities on March 15, and the March Dinner with Friends will be held on Thursday, March 19, at Mr. Whiskers.

New this year is a time to celebrate our pets at the April 19 luncheon following worship. Plan now to bring a framed or printed or digital photo of your favorite current or former pet to show off at your table as the animals represented receive a blessing next month.

Meet the Newest Elders



Betty Corley, wife of Joe Colgrove, retired from the VA Hospital as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. She will be serving on Session as the chair of the Fellowship Committee. Betty lists piecing quilts and reading as her hobbies. She previously has served other Presbyterian churches in the choir and as a Stephen Minister, and is currently serving in the WPC Joyful Ringers and attends the Wednesday Bible study. Betty's hopes and dream for WPC is that we

grow in membership, continue community involvement with inclusive acceptance for everyone, while continuing to develop Christ-like living. She stated she "wants Westminster to feel like home to all who attend or visit, to feel God's love and know they belong here."

Stephen DeGrasse lists his family as Katrina Taylor, sons Preston & Bailey. He previously has served as an Elder and youth leader for WPC. Stephen works for the Lakeside School District Police Department, and enjoys watching "my boys play sports." He and Katrina are active runners, and they participate in numerous races. Stephen stated he had been at Westminster "all my life." His hopes and dreams for WPC is to see more young families. He will serve on the Property committee.



Terry Hogate has served as an elder previously and is returning to serve as the chair of the Finance/Stewardship Committee. Terry's family includes son Brad & daughter-in-law Annie with grandchildren, Charlotte and Tommy, who live in Little Rock. Terry's second son is Tyler with his wife Amanda and daughters Juliette and Emmaline who have recently relocated to Chicago, Illinois. Terry retired from Weyerhaeuser Human Resources, Change Management. She listed her hobbies as traveling, reading, sewing, and spending time with friends and grandchildren. Terry stated "Westminster has been



home to me since Chuck and I moved here. The joy and fellowship are contagious, and the caring and compassion helped me in my times of sorrow. I can still feel Chucks' presence when singing in the choir."



Tommy Waddell is a retired Communications Engineer and Long Range Planner for SBC. He listed his hobbies as volunteering at NPMC, reading, playing skipbo, walking, and spoiling his 11 grandchildren. He has two daughters and three sons. Tommy serves on the Christian Education Committee, has served at Jackson House for the Mission committee, and has helped in the kitchen during fellowship luncheons. He will chair the Mission/Evangelism Committee. He stated his hopes are to increase attendance with more young people with children to carry on after we older members are gone. Tommy said "I felt welcome and wanted from the first time I attended services."

Aaron Norton is serving a two-year term to fill the Class of 2027 and will continue serving on the Christian Education committee and as a Youth Leader. Aaron has a long connection with Westminster as his great-grandmother, Vesta Smith, and his grandmother, Sarah David, both were long-standing members prior to their deaths.



Dinner with Friends

All are invited to join with friends for dinner on Thursday, March 20, at 6:00 pm at Mr. Whiskers, 4195 Malvern Avenue. If you wish to reserve a space or have questions, contact the church office (501-525-1368) no later than March 17.

FINANCIAL/STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Expenses and Revenue	January	YTD
TOTAL REVENUE	31,833	31,833
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,441	23,441
SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-)	8,391	8,391

March

2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion</p>	<p>2 12:05 Lenten Lunch Oaklawn Methodist</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8:15 Men's Breakfast 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 WPC Bell Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>9 12:05 Lenten Lunch First United Methodist</p>	<p>10 1:30 Catherine Circle Community Room</p>	<p>11 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 WPC Bell Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 Fellowship Luncheon 11:15 WPC Youth</p>	<p>16 12:05 Lenten Lunch Grand Ave. Methodist 6:30 Session Community Room</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 WPC Bell Choir</p>	<p>19 Dinner with Friends Mr. Whiskers</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>23 12:05 Lenten Lunch St. Luke's Episcopal</p>	<p>24 Newsletter items due</p>	<p>25 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26 Newsletter to be Mailed today</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>30 12:05 Lenten Lunch First Presbyterian</p>	<p>31</p>				

2026 Lenten Lunch, February 23

Was a success, thanks to . . .



Lawrence Grubb and Curtis Wright (who moved so many tables and chairs), NiAnn Thompson, Betty Corley, Carol Birmingham, Susie Wright (the crew chief who organized everything!), Mary Cole, Debbie George, and Mariko McCallum, and not pictured Dee Renteria, Joan Evans, Pat Webb, Kay Studenberg, and to everyone who contributed soups and other goodies.

Pastor
Rev. Carl McCormack

CRE, Pastoral Care
Susie Wright

Organist/Choir Director/
Handbell Choir Director
Kristen La Madrid

Administrative Assistant
Billie Wetzler

Custodian
Jack Davis

Mother's Day Out Director
Anita Dickson

Church Office
501-525-1367

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Website
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*Lectio*nary

March 1—Gen. 12:1-4a and Ps. 127; Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matt. 17:1-9

March 8—Ex. 17:1-7 and Ps. 95; Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 15—1 Sam. 16:1-13 and Ps. 23; Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 22—Ezek. 37:1-14 and Ps. 130; Rom. 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

March 29—Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms —Matt.21:1-11 and Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion—Isa. 50:4-9a and Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54

