

The Good News

*“Striving to share Christ’s love with all of
God’s people”*

April 2026



*Westminster
Presbyterian Church*

*3819 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913*

From Pastor Carl . . .

A Conversation with God

Our Father Who Art in Heaven . . .

YES?

Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.

BUT — YOU CALLED ME!

Called you? No, I didn't call you. I'm praying. Our Father who art in heaven . . .

THERE — YOU DID IT AGAIN

Did what?

YOU CALLED ME. YOU SAID, "OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN," WELL HERE I AM. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like fulfilling a duty.

WELL, ALL RIGHT. IF YOU FEEL IT'S YOUR DUTY, THEN GO ON, BY ALL MEANS.

Okay, Hallowed be Thy name...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

By what?

BY "HALLOWED BE THY NAME"?

It means, it means ... good grief, I don't know what it means. How in the world should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

IT MEANS HONORED, HOLY, WONDERFUL.

Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what "hallowed" meant before. Thanks. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?

Sure, why not?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?

Doing? Why, nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there. We're kind of in a mess down here you know.

YES, I KNOW; BUT DO I HAVE CONTROL OF YOU?

Well, I go to church.

THAT ISN'T WHAT I ASKED. WHAT ABOUT YOUR BAD TEMPER? YOU'VE REALLY GOT A PROBLEM THERE, YOU KNOW. AND THEN THERE'S THE WAY YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY – ALL ON YOURSELF. AND WHAT ABOUT THE KIND OF BOOKS YOU READ?

Now hold on just a minute! Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at church!

EXCUSE ME. I THOUGHT YOU WERE PRAYING FOR MY WILL TO BE DONE. IF THAT IS TO HAPPEN, IT WILL HAVE TO START WITH THE ONES WHO ARE PRAYING FOR IT. LIKE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE.

Oh, all right. I guess I do have some obsessions. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

SO COULD I.

I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

GOOD. NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE. WE'LL WORK TOGETHER – YOU AND ME. I'M PROUD OF YOU.

Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. Give us this day, our daily bread.

YOU NEED TO CUT OUT THE BREAD. YOU'RE OVERWEIGHT AS IT IS.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my obsessions.

PRAYING IS A DANGEROUS THING. YOU JUST MIGHT GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR. REMEMBER, YOU CALLED ME – AND HERE I AM. IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW. KEEP PRAYING.

....pause...

WELL, GO ON.

I'm afraid to.

AFRAID? OF WHAT?

I know what you'll say.

TRY ME.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

WHAT ABOUT NORA?

See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why, Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories. She never paid back the money she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!

BUT YOUR PRAYER — WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRAYER?

I didn't – didn't really – mean it.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE BEING HONEST. BUT IT'S QUITE A LOAD YOUR CARRYING AROUND ISN'T IT, I MEAN ALL THAT BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT?

Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her. Boy, have I got some plans for her. She'll wish she had never been born.

NO, YOU WON'T FEEL ANY BETTER. YOU'LL FEEL WORSE. REVENGE ISN'T SWEET. YOU KNOW HOW UNHAPPY YOU ARE – WELL, I CAN CHANGE THAT.

You can? How?

FORGIVE NORA, SINCERELY. THEN, I'LL FORGIVE YOU; AND NORA'S HATRED AND ANGER WILL BE SOMETHING I CAN HELP HER DEAL WITH. YOU WILL HAVE SETTLED THE PROBLEM AS FAR AS YOU AND I ARE CONCERNED.

Oh, you know, you're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge, I want to be right with You..., (sigh). All right...all right...Father, I sincerely forgive Nora.

THERE NOW! WONDERFUL! HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all! In fact, I feel pretty good! You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uneasy tonight. I haven't been getting much rest, you know.

**YES, I KNOW. BUT YOU’RE NOT THROUGH WITH YOUR PRAYER ARE YOU?
GO ON.**

Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**GOOD! GOOD! I’LL DO THAT. JUST DON’T PUT YOURSELF IN A PLACE
WHERE YOU CAN BE TEMPTED.**

What do you mean by that?

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

Well, Yes – I guess I do.

OKAY. GO AHEAD. FINISH YOUR PRAYER.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BRING ME GLORY — WHAT WOULD REALLY
MAKE ME HAPPY?**

No, but I’d like to know. I want to please you now. I’ve really made a mess of things. I want to truly follow you. I can see now how great that would be. So, tell me ... how do I make you happy?

YOU JUST DID.

This imaginary conversation was sent to me by an old friend. I think it is important for us to remember that our prayers are conversations with God, whether we are fully aware of it or not. There are times when we just go through the motions, mouth the words, repeat our memorized prayers while our hearts are not engaged and listening for God’s response. The apostle James said, “The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective.” Don’t take prayers for granted. Don’t take God for granted. Be open and receptive to His presence and listen for his voice in your prayer life. Have a conversation with God.

I’ll see you in church.

Blessings,
Pastor Carl



April Milestones Happy Birthday To:

- 01 *Connie Townley*
- 01 *Charlotte Vitro*
- 04 *Stephen DeGrasse*
- 05 *Kathrin Howell*
- 05 *Ryan Smith*
- 11 *Jean Grim*
- 20 *David Cole*
- 22 *Kitty Reddin*
- 23 *Claire Rhodes*
- 23 *Janie Russell*
- 25 *Karen Wacaster*



*Breakfast
Men of the Church
Wednesday
April 1
8:15 a.m.
Higdon Square Café*

Dinner with Friends



All are invited to join with friends for dinner on Thursday, April 16, at 6:00 pm at Mama's Little Italy, 1020 Airport Road. If you wish to attend, please call the church office by 4 pm on Tuesday, April 14, so that we will have a count as to how many are attending.

Fellowship Luncheon

Thank you to my Westminster family for the wonderful support for the March fellowship luncheon, my first as your new Fellowship Chair. Special thanks to Susan Puls, Billie Wetzler, and Susie Wright for helping me early to get everything started. Clean-up crew was amazing; a big thank you to Tommy Waddell, David & Mary Cole, Mariko McCallum, and Eathon Howell. To all, my appreciation on your willingness to serve.

Blessings,
Betty Corley

Holy Week Events

Sunday, March 29—Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Week begins, Worship, 10:30 am

Monday, March 30—Sixth Lenten Lunch, 12 noon, First Presbyterian Church

Thursday, April 2—Maundy Thursday Services, 7 pm, Westminster

Friday, April 3—Good Friday Services, 2 pm, Prince of Peace Chapel

Sunday, April 5—Easter Services, 10:30 am, Westminster (no Sunday School)

Christian Education

Wednesday noon verse-by-verse Bible study of the Gospel of Mark led by Lawrence Grubb is growing, and all are invited to come and participate. Dinner with Friends at 6 pm on Thursday, April 16, will be at Mama's Little Italy, 1020 Airport Road.

Thirteen women from Catherine Circle will attend and help with Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering April 17-18 through grants from church conferences funds. Youth news is that Senior Highs and their friends will eat and meet after worship on April 19. "Save the Date" to recognize our four high school graduates on Mother's Day, May 10. Finally, the book club is paused until early June.

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications will be made available in mid-April to graduating high school seniors, graduate students, seminary candidates, church employees, and others seeking to earn certifications, licenses, or to further enhance workplace skills. There will be an announcement in the May newsletter and Sunday bulletins when the applications may be picked up from the church office. The deadline for returning the applications will be Thursday, May 28, 2026.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Presbyterians have a history of working to build a more just, resilient and sustainable future. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are supporting the gifts and talents of people and communities all over the world and offering opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

- **The Gift of Sustainable Development** meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **The Gift of Partnership** is partnering in community development projects which improves lives and builds stronger communities.
- **The Gift of Service** on every day, spiritual and community leaders show amazing resilience in the efforts to rebuild and seek peace following a disaster.

We will have the opportunity to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter morning.

Mission/Evangelism Committee

To date, the congregation's contributions to March Dollar Giving for the Presbytery's work in Disaster Preparedness and Response has totaled \$380. In April, Dollar Giving is designated for A. C. E. Closet of snacks and clothes for needy Lakeside students.

On Easter Sunday, April 5, the PC(USA) special offering of One Great Hour of Sharing benefitting individuals and communities in need due to hunger, poverty, climate change, or disasters will be collected. General Mission 2nd Quarter funds will be divided among Project Hope Food Bank, Changepoint Pregnancy Care and Parenting Center, Inc., and local veterans support.

Please consider inviting friends, family and neighbors to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter worship services as we spread the Westminster good news.

Catherine Circle of Presbyterian Women

On March 10, Peggy Stanley presented over 800 candy-filled Easter eggs assembled by Catherine Circle members to Julie Capps, Chief Operating Officer, for the 275 students at First Step School.



On Tuesday, April 14, Catherine Circle will meet in the Community Room at 1:30 pm. Dorla Dixon will lead and discuss Lesson 8, "Easter: A Time to Weep, and a Time to Laugh." All women are invited, and the group will decide on the next study book to use starting in September and grants to mission recipients. Final preparations for the statewide PW Spring Gathering being held in Hot Springs on April 17-18 will be made.

FINANCIAL/STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Expenses and Revenue	February	YTD
TOTAL REVENUE	44,136	75,969
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,287	49,729
SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-)	17,848	26,240

New Address:

Larry Stallmann
Country Club Village #21B
1925 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, AR 71901

New Phone No.:

Susan Puls
501-762-1510
Anniversary Correction
January 22, 1977

The Cross Was His Own

*They borrowed a bed to lay His head
When Christ the LORD came down;
They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass
For Him to ride to town;
But the crown that He wore,
And the cross that He bore ...
Were His own.*

*He borrowed the bread when the crowd He fed
On the grassy mountain side;
He borrowed the dish of broken fish
With which He satisfied;
But the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.*

*He borrowed the ship in which to sit
To teach the multitude;
He borrowed the nest in which to rest,
He had never a home so rude;
But the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.*


*He borrowed a room on the way to the Tomb
The Passover lamb to eat;
They borrowed the cave; for Him a grave;
They borrowed the winding sheet.
But the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own.*

*The thorns on His head were worn in my stead,
For me the Saviour died.
For guilt of my sin the nails drove in
When Him they crucified;
Though the crown that He wore
And the cross that He bore
Were His own--
They rightly were mine!*

~Author Unknown ~

APRIL

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5  EASTER 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion	6 Office Closed	7	1 8:15 Men's Breakfast 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 WPC Bell Choir 8 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 WPC Bell Choir	2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday Prince of Peace Chapel 2 pm	4
12 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	13	14 1:30 Catherine Circle Community Room	15 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 WPC Bell Choir	16 Dinner with Friends Mama's Little Italy 6:00 pm	17	18 <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> PW SPRING GATHERING </div>
19 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 Fellowship Luncheon 11:15 WPC Youth	20 6:30 Session Community Room	21	22 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir	23 Newsletter items due	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	27 Newsletter to be Mailed today	28	29 12 Noon Bible Study 4:30 Chancel Choir 5:45 WPC Bell Choir	30		

Pastor
Rev. Carl McCormack

CRE, Pastoral Care
Susie Wright

Organist/Choir Director/
Handbell Choir Director
Kristen La Madrid



*Lectio*nary

Administrative Assistant
Billie Wetzler

Custodian
Jack Davis

Mother's Day Out Director
Anita Dickson

Church Office
501-525-1367

E-Mail
wpchsar@gmail.com

Website
www.wpchotsprings.org

April 5—Easter Day—Acts 10:34-43 or Jer. 31:1-6
and Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; Col. 3:1-4 or
Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

April 5—Easter Evening—Isa. 25:6-9 and Ps. 114;
Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

April 12—Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and Ps. 16 or
Ex. 15:1-11 and Ps. 111; 1 Pet. 1:3-9;
John 20:19-31

April 19—Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Ps. 116:1-4, 12-
19 or Isa. 51:1-6 and Ps. 34:1-10;
1 Pet. 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 26—Acts 2:42-47 and Ps. 23 or Ezek. 34:7-15
and Ps. 100; 1 Pet. 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Join the Birthday celebration for Jean Grim on her 95th birthday. The celebration will be held at Garrett Woods, 142 Brighton Place, on April 11; refreshments will be served from 2 to 4 pm.

Ms. Jean's mother-in-law was the first female elder of Westminster, and Ms. Jean raised all five of her children here at Westminster.

