



WESTERN SPIRE

JANUARY 2021

“... they went back to their own country by another route.” ~Matthew 2:12

People of God at WPC,

I was reminded this week about a memoir I read a few years ago: Cheryl Strayed’s memoir, *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*. In her book, Strayed recounts hiking a large portion of the Pacific Crest trail in California and Oregon. The trip itself extends from the California border with Mexico, winding its way through mountains and valleys all the way to the Washington border with Canada. Strayed describes the low point her life had reached following the death of her mother, her subsequent attempts to numb the pain she experienced with drugs and alcohol, when she set out on this pilgrimage alone. However, even though she begins alone, and has to learn how to live and hike alone on the trail, she develops some very interesting, life-changing relationships.

The story of our faith is packed with stories about journeys. As I write this, we are concluding the last days of Christmas, about to celebrate the Epiphany, where we remember the Magi who traveled a great distance to honor the child Jesus, whose own ministry is one long journey toward Jerusalem. If we look at scripture closely, we notice that Jesus is never in one place very long and is most often teaching and healing “on the way” to someplace else.

Our faith journeys - both individually and as a community - involve the coming alongside of others for a time, much as Strayed found herself meeting fellow travelers on the PCT.

Sometimes those fellow hikers are with us for days or weeks, while others we travel with for only a few miles. But the time together need not be long for the impact to be meaningful.

This past year has been one filled with difficulties - anxieties, stresses we never saw coming, pain, loss. Many of us have entered this new year with a sense of relief at having closed the book on 2020, while others of us are more cautious about what is to come. Wherever you are on the way, let us remember that quote, often attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson: “life is a journey, not a destination.”

Of course, I would add to that this: the journey is meant to be shared with whoever you are walking with at the moment. Share your story with someone; listen to theirs. In the midst of that sharing, maybe we will discover that we are journeying toward the same destination after all.

Grace and peace in Christ, our constant traveling companion,

~Pastor Kyle

A Note from Session

Session continues to move forward. We met with Reverend Aaron Frank from the Committee on Ministry for a second time. We want to be sure we continue to have the conversations needed. Rev. Frank thinks we are moving in the right direction. Kyle has continued to improve his communication with congregation members.

We have continued to have discussions on in person worship. We want to be sure to keep our members safe. We decided to continue having in person worship as long as we are not in a colored zone. If the area goes yellow, we will meet again and talk about our options. If the area goes orange, we will automatically stop in person worship and go virtual only. We want to try to stay open for as long as we can. It seems it is important for those attending to be with other people.

We spent our December meeting having a brainstorming session on the budget. The finance team has been working hard to come up with ways to cut the deficit budget. We are down in the members pledging. While this is a nationwide trend it puts us in a tight spot. We plan on contacting those who have not pledged to see why. Several teams have agreed to have their budget cut. Not being able to run all our programs due to the pandemic has saved some money but we have a long way to go.

Stay tuned for more information as we move into the new and hopefully better year.

“We love because he first loved us”

Janet Manktelow



To our church family,

The many cards and notes received expressing your love and caring in the loss of our grandson Ben have lifted our spirits during the advent season.

**Our heartfelt thanks,
Frank and Bron Lawrence**

To WPC Sunday School children,

Your Christmas greetings of joy brought smiles to our faces.

**Thanks to all of you for your thoughtfulness.
Frank and Bron Lawrence**



Camp Whitman Membership

Why Become a Member:

Becoming a member helps to ensure that the legacy of Camp Whitman continues on and supports our mission: "Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake lives for those who are longing for belonging, seeking connection with community and creation, respite from chaos and competition, and an opportunity to encounter both the Holy and themselves."

Here are just a few ways you can support Camp Whitman:

- Attend and support Camp Whitman events.
- Volunteer.
- Provide additional financial support.
- Serve on a committee.
- Promote Camp Whitman through your local church, family, friends, and community connections.
- Offer continuous, active prayer support for Camp Whitman staff, program, and guests.

Membership Levels and Benefit Descriptions:

Camp Whitman Supporters:

- Receive e-newsletter updates about Camp Whitman.
- Invitation to attend the annual Summer Picnic & Worship by the Lake event.
- Receive a 10%-member discount for special fundraising events and camp store purchases.

Camp Whitman Companions:

- All benefits listed in the above Supporter category are included.
- Plus, early member access for camp registrations and a 10%-member discount on camp tuition for all children in the family or group home.
- Plus, early member access for group and family rentals and a 10%-member discount on all rental and program fees.
- Free passes to our Fall Fun Day.

Camp Whitman Partners (for churches, organization, or businesses):

- All benefits listed in the above Supporter category are included.
- Plus, early member access for group and facility rentals and a 25%-member discount on all rental and program fees.
- Benefits only apply to the church or nonprofit. Individuals associated with the church or nonprofit do not receive individual membership benefits.

Camp Whitman Patrons:

- All benefits listed in the Supporter and Companion categories are included.
- 2 Free Tickets to all Fundraising events.

Membership Rates:

Supporters: \$25

Companions: \$100

Partners: \$250

Patrons: \$500+

Becoming a member is simple: complete the form at

<https://www.campwhitman.org/join-now>

and return with the annual membership fee to

Camp Whitman c/o
Presbytery of Geneva
P.O. Box 24393
Rochester, NY 14624

WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Believes That No One Should Go Hungry

For years, WPC has been active in the food pantry, with Cereal Sundays and donations of non-perishable foods.

Volunteers work 3 days every month passing out food.

Volunteers order food from Food Link and help with the delivery.



Weekend Wellness bags are passed out each week to about 100 school-aged children, so they have nutritious food on the weekend.

Western Presbyterians support the library in summer lunch and after school snacks.



**Free
Summer
Lunches
for Teens
& Kids**

July 6 – August 13 (Monday – Thursday)
12 – 1 p.m.



Western Presbyterian supports Meals on Wheels for Seniors.

As a next step in getting fresh vegetables for the Food Pantry, what if we started a Community Garden?

Community Garden(s)
Feeding the hungry
fresh vegetables
that are grown in raised beds in
Palmyra.



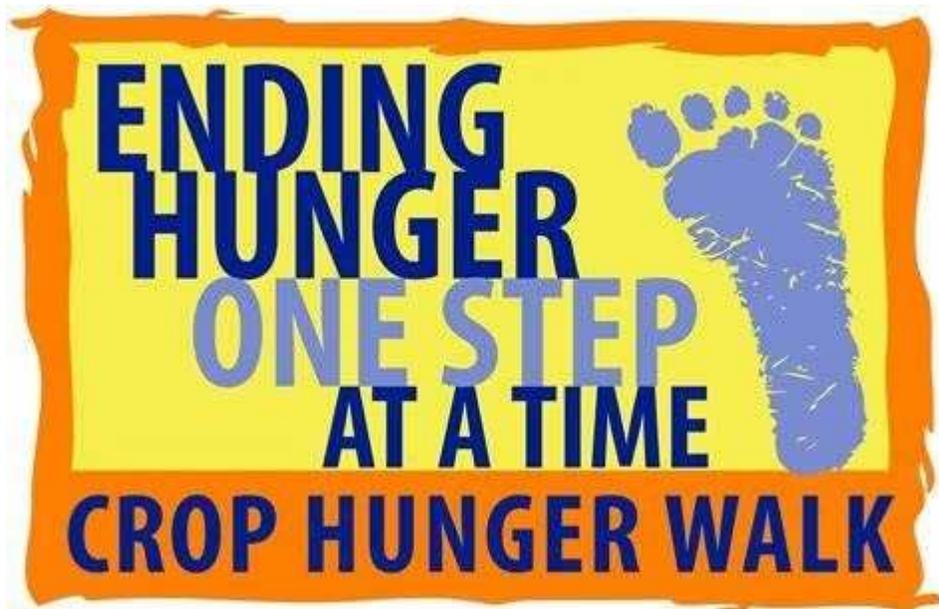
But first we must find a space for the project.

Beds could be all over Palmyra **at different churches or homes** or maybe located centrally at the **fairgrounds** or some other **space that YOU know** about. Please ask about space. Anyone says yes, let us know?

Anyone want to get in on the ground floor to plan?

Contact Irene Fadden,

faddenirene@gmail.com or text 585-802-7594. Irene has agreed to chair this project, so do not worry about being asked to chair the project unless you really want to.



CWS and CROP Hunger Walks

Let's get this started in Palmyra-Macedon, again. We hope to have many of the churches in the community participate. If you would like to help with the planning of this event, contact Irene at faddenirene@gmail.com or text 585-802-7594. **Youth** can be on the planning team, so let me know your interest so we can zoom.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held across the United States raising funds to support the global mission of [Church World Service](#) as well as our local food pantry. CWS is a faith-based organization which strives to transform communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. 25% of the funds raised will remain in the community, being given to the Pal-Mac Food Pantry to support local hunger fighting efforts.

If the virus is still raging in the spring, we can do a virtual walk. We do not have to do it on the same day as other CROP Walks. We'll plan the walk along the canal path or on the sidewalks around Palmyra. We'll get out the publicity before the event. Thanks for considering how you can help in this endeavor.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 4	Marietta Koeberle
January 6	Sally Chase
January 6	Molly Budziszewski
January 12	Dave Taylor
January 15	Andrew Budziszewski
January 16	Erika Mitchell
January 24	Norman Underwood
January 28	Jonathan Moak
January 29	Roxnee Dobson

There are no anniversaries this month.

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!

Our Prayer Concerns (updated December 23, 2020)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Frank Huber (requested by Carol and Andy Sloan)
Family & Friends of Marilyn Smith (requested by Sandy and Jerry Kelly)
Family & Friends of Karen Morey (requested by Elaine and Bill Hassler)
Family & Friends of the Biondolillo/McCallum Family (requested by Pastor Kyle)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

Jeffrey Bavis, AJ Bliss, Cody Bullock, Adam Hill, Sarah Jagger, Joe Krebbeks, Patrick Magno, Josh Polli, Dylan Smith, Adam Stephens, Adam VanNatta, Shod Williams

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

All caregivers, All those who have been affected by the Coronavirus, All victims of violence, hatred and hunger, Brenda, Annabelle Brown & family, Jim Bush, Beth Chang, Bob Clark, John Davis, Jacquie DeBrine, Nancy Dennison, Ray Freyn, Betsy Goodwin, Katy Greenlaw, Janet Haigh, Geoffrey Hargrave, Bill Hassler, Lynn Huber, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Barbara Denton Knight, Samantha Knight, Kathy Lesio, Jessica Locey, Karen Lupa, Jennifer Mahnke, Burt Manktelow, Richard Menzel, Paul Murphy, Jim Murray, Denise Nash, Rev. Dick Otterness, Michaela Raes, Joanne Rockwell, Patty Rogers, Kathy Rynders, Andrew Stephens, Jan Taylor, Rev. Eric Titus, Charlie Tolson, Lee Anne Scriber Uhelski, Barbara Walton, Deborah Wilder & family, Albert Zaranka, Ellen Zaranka

Please pray for those who wish to remain anonymous as they, too, need our prayers.

Others for whom we continue to pray:

Tracy D'Arduini, Harold M. Delhagen, Kathleen Dougherty, Art Duel, Evelyn Elsenheimer, Greg Elsenheimer, Kriss Larsen, Marta Lydia & Pastor Ricardo, Ashley Maragas, Cim McFarlane, Marilyn Pitts, Wesley Pruitt, Wilma Redman, David Squier, Fran Storm

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Madelyn Jagger, Beverly Koeberle, Bev Mouton, Patricia Nash, Ginny Palmer

Prayers of Intercession are offered each day by our Pastor and Deacons.

To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Pastor Kyle, Sandy McMenamin, or the Church office.

Please remember that all prayer requests are automatically removed from the list after one month unless the giver specifically requests continuation.

Ministry Teams

If a ministry team is going to meet,
the chair will reach you
by phone and/or email.

Stay Well. Stay Safe.

You can mail your offering to
101 East Main St.
Palmyra, NY 14522.
Or you can bring your offering to the church.
Kathy puts an offering plate outside the office Tues.,
Wed., and Thurs. 9:00-2:00.





WPC is hosting the week of Jan 17th to Jan 23rd in the apartments in Savannah.

We'll need to collect money for food. In August, it cost \$125 per family.

You may send checks made out to
Irene Fadden
1776 Greenview Dr
Walworth, NY 14568

Or

You may leave cash or checks in my mailbox. Checks should be made out to me, Irene Fadden. Any extra money will be kept for June weeks.

There have been 3 to 4 families all fall, but only 8-9 people.

Anyone wanting to make cookies, bring boxes of cereal, granola bars, fruit cups, etc. may be left in the kitchen at WPC by Friday, Jan 15th.

We hope to host in Palmyra June 6th, June 27th, and Aug 15th.

We are avoiding hosting while nursery school is in session.



JANUARY 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2
3 9 am Sunday School Children Led Epiphany Service	4 Annual Reports due 7 pm Fellowship Zoom	5 10 am Deacons 7 pm Session	6 10 am Mission/Social Concerns Zoom	7	8	9
10 9 am Sunday School 1-5 pm Girl Scouts FH Annual Reports Available	11	12 7 pm Worship Zoom	13 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	14 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	15	16
17 9 am Sunday School	18 Martin Luther King's Birthday Office Closed	19 SPIRE DEADLINE	20 1:30 pm Circle 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom 6:30 pm Property	21 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	22	23
24 9 am Sunday School	25 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 4:30 pm CTNS	26 7 pm Session	27 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	28 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	29	30
31 9 am Sunday School Annual Meeting						



FEBRUARY 2021

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 7 pm Fellowship	2 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed. Zoom	3 10 am Mission/Social Concerns Zoom 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	4 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	5	6
7 9 am Sunday School	8 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	9 7 pm Worship	10 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	11 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	12	13
14 No Sunday School Blanket Sunday	15 President's Day Office Closed VBS Day 10 am Coffee & Contemplation	16 SPIRE DEADLINE	17 Ash Wednesday 1:30 pm Circle 6:30 pm Property	18 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	19	20
21 9 am Sunday School	22 10 am Coffee & Contemplation 4:30 pm CTNS	23 7 pm Session	24 4 pm Visio Divina Zoom	25 7 pm Prayer Gathering Zoom	26	27
28 9 am Sunday School						