

**“You shall be holy for
I the Lord your God
am holy”
Leviticus 19:2**

WESTERN SPIRE

MARCH 2025

One of the reasons I find my pastoral job so different and difficult is because pastors are expected to answer any criticism against them. Of course, for someone like me, who is introvert and who have struggled with low self-esteem since childhood, self-oriented perfectionism carries more weight on me than other outside critics. But it is equally difficult and burdensome to hear the voices of the people who ask their questions with a preconceived idea or answer already in their minds, because they ask not to listen but to judge me. Among those people are a good number of pastors, as well.

From the conversation with some people, sometimes I feel I need to correct myself, especially on overestimating my role with a messiah complex (not just me but a lot of pastors have the same unnecessary burden), simply because I cannot answer all problems. But I also feel sometimes there is a fundamental misunderstanding of a Christian life of holiness, to which we all are called.

Holiness is considered an important Christian virtue because it is a central theme in the Old Testament and a defining theme to explain the direction of human salvation in the New Testament. If there is a door to enter a Christian life, I believe one can see the placard over an arched door that says, “You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy” (Leviticus 19:2). In Exodus 19:5~6 it is the reason God gave the commandments to the Israelites and you can find other verses corresponding to this important requirement for all believers in Leviticus 21:8, Matthew 5:48, 1 Peter 1:16, Romans 12:2, etc. Especially, because Romans 12:2 says, “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect,” holiness can be understood to live a different life from the worldly standards.

It seems to be a right understanding of holiness when we consider that holiness in Hebrew, “kadash,” originally means “set apart,” “separate,” “different,” or “consecrated.” However, it does not mean we have to draw the line between the clean and the unclean, between ‘us’ and ‘them’ because we are living in the world and dealing with the problems in which so many components are involved. Maybe, the most extreme image of this false holiness is a cult leader isolating his/her followers from the outside world and maintaining control over them. Then, what does it mean to be holy in our real-life situations?

To think of WWJD is a right direction to consider holiness. How did Jesus maintain his holiness as he faced so many temptations and difficult situations but without sin (Hebrew 4:15, 1Peter 2:22)? He drew the ire of the religious leaders for eating with sinners and got a derogatory nickname of “a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Luke 7:34) and can we still call him holy? He never distanced himself from the people who were called ‘sinners’ to make sure his honor and holiness were intact.

Instead, Jesus redefined holiness, not so much as a physical, ritual, or customary separation, but as showing the love and compassion of God in the world. For Jesus, holiness was not a very strict code, but had everything to do with embodying God's love for the people, no matter how ignored, excluded, and marginalized they were. His attitude toward sinners made the Pharisees and scribes very uncomfortable, which eventually led to his death on the cross. Ostensibly, Jesus seemed to favor compassion over holiness, but what Jesus did was true holiness because he reflected the God Almighty who was full of mercy and compassion that God causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:45). What can be more holy than imitating God Himself in our lives?

An American writer, Anne Lamott, said, "You can safely assume you've created your own God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people as you do." If the love of Jesus flows through us, not being clogged up by our bitter heart, I believe Jesus calls it holiness, because the more holy we are, the more like Jesus we are.

Peace of Christ,
Rev. Hodong Hwang

Save the date!

Fellowship is hosting Coffee Hour with our traditional Sweets & Treats on Sunday March 2nd following Worship.



There is a signup sheet outside Fellowship Hall. Come one and all and carb out before we enter Lent.



Please bring your favorite confection to share.

The committee will supply beverages.

Hope to see you there! 😊

The Fellowship Committee

Please mark your calendar for March 30th!

Fellowship is hosting one of our 5th Sunday Potluck luncheons following worship on March 30th, 2025.

The theme this time is **“your favorite childhood food”**



Let's reminisce for a day and bring something you loved as a child and share it with your church family. Please note that if you can't bring something there is ALWAYS enough for everyone.

Please bring your table service and Fellowship will supply the beverages and desserts.

We ask that you sign up on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall, so we know how many desserts to make.

See you there!


Ash Wednesday is March 5th. This year our Lenten Sharing Calendar is to support One Great Hour of Sharing. We will again use the bread loaf banks. **The banks will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 20th.** The Sharing Calendar is from PCUSA. Many days on the calendar ask for you to make a gift and that whatever you give will be used by the larger church for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self Development of People, and the Presbyterian Hunger Fund.

Those with emails accounts known to WPC office will receive an email each week to use for devotions each day of the week. There are also links that can be used for exploring OGHS. If you keep the weekly email, you will be able to click on the links.

Week of March 9th-14th

Sunday: God, open our eyes to you face in every person. Let us see the ways we are all connected with all creation. May we, as your Church, together, seek love, justice and peace with all. Amen

Monday: Using the online map, find a PDA partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for those recovering from natural or human-caused disasters.

Tuesday: In a natural disaster, people are often unable to access their normal sources of drinking water. Put in 5¢ for each drink of water you were able to have. 

Wednesday: Climate change is affecting growing seasons and forcing families to leave their homes. Make a "gift" to OGHS to help people working to address climate change.

Thursday: When situations are difficult whom do you call upon? Give a "gift" to honor someone in your life for the specific way that they support you.

Friday: Safe Development of People Day is Sunday. Visit the SDOP link below to learn about some community partnerships. Make a "gift" to honor our partners around the world.

Saturday: What does the Lord require of us but "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"? God's love is abundant and we are to care for those who are unable to provide for themselves. We will be measured by how we loved the least among us and in reaching out we will once again see the face of our Savior. Give a "gift" for God's abundant love.

Link for Safe Development of People

<https://www.pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/self-development-people>

Link for Map.

<https://www.google.com/maps/@/viewer?mid=1kQ58EzME6BZnQ2z7CM1xG72uHwWlhz5&uap=sharing>

On the Sharing Calendar April 9th, it mentions kits that can be used in Emergencies.

After Easter, we will collect items that are part of a hygiene kit. And then after the May Rummage Sale we will take all the items that have been donated and make them into kits to send off to Church World Service. Watch for more information about the Hygiene Kits in the April Spire.

A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2025

Each day at or after a meal time, gather around this map activity. Consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill (a "gift") in your fish coin bank or a jar.

Ash Wednesday: Read Isaiah 58:6-8, 12. Which actions or words stand out to you? Write a prayer of intention for Lent using some of the words from Isaiah 58.

Thursday: Think of three people you are thankful for. Find a way to let them know you are thinking about them. Consider sharing a gift in their honor.

Friday: Blue T-Shirt Sunday celebrates the ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Wear a blue shirt for worship this Sunday and learn more at pda.pcusa.org.

March 9-14

Sunday: God, open our eyes to your face in every person. Let us see the ways we are all connected with all of Creation. May we as your Church, together, seek love, justice and peace with all. **Amen.**

Monday: Using the online map, find a PDA partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for those recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.

Tuesday: In a natural disaster, people are often unable to access their normal sources of drinking water. Sharing a gift in your fish box will help water reach people who need it.

Wednesday: Climate change is affecting growing seasons and forcing families to leave their homes. Make a gift to OGHs to help people working to address climate change.

Thursday: When situations are difficult, whom do you call upon? Give a gift to honor someone in your life for the specific way that they support you.

Friday: Self-Development of People (SDOP) Sunday is in two days! Visit pcusa.org/sdop to learn about their community partnerships. Make a gift to honor our partners around the world.

March 16-21

Sunday: Gather us all around your banquet table, O God, with all who hunger and thirst. May we join, together, to share the abundance you've intended for all. **Amen.**

Monday: Using the online map, find an SDOP partnership near where you live. Read about the need being addressed and say a prayer for the people involved in that ministry.

Tuesday: Social barriers can be like locked doors that hold people back and keep them from thriving as Jesus intended. Make a gift to help open doors so all people can grow and learn freely.

Wednesday: Clean water is a necessity for every living thing. Using the online map, find three projects related to water. Give a gift for each faucet in your house.

Thursday: What are you thankful for in yourself? God offers gifts and talents to each of us. Make a short list of yours and make them part of a "Thank you, God" prayer.

Friday: Millions of Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy fresh food. Make a gift for each grocery store near your home.

March 23-28

Sunday: Encourage us, Creator, when things get difficult. May we draw creativity and hope from your Spirit, and from our partners along the way. **Amen.**

Monday: Using the online map, find a project or partnership near a location you have wanted to visit, but have never been. Say a prayer for all neighbors whom you have never met.

Tuesday: People who care for others also need care. Do something special for the caretakers in your life to say, "Thank you."

Wednesday: Wiggly worms and buzzing bees are essential to healthy soils and plants. Give a gift of thanks for all the little things that help the world grow.

Thursday: The right supplies make all the difference, whether you are growing crops or learning at school. Remember the last time you had the right tool for a project and make a gift as part of remembering.

Friday: Make up a mealtime prayer and use it during meals this weekend. Give a gift in thanks for the food you have.

March 30-April 4

Sunday: God, you say, "Come to the waters" and "Buy wine without money and bread without price." Let us learn by your generosity, the gift of giving what we have to share. **Amen.**

Monday: Using the online map, find a Presbyterian Hunger Program partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for the people involved in the ministry there.

Tuesday: When rain is scarce, special collection systems are built to catch the water so it can be used for growing plants. Give a gift to help bring water to people when it doesn't rain.

Wednesday: Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost in a storm. Can you identify a favorite Bible verse about light? Make a gift in honor of the verse.

Thursday: Social support and connection are important parts of being healthy. Give a gift of gratitude for one person or place that offers welcome to you.

Friday: Teaching healthy food choices and food safety can change the health of an entire community! Make a gift for the healthy foods you had today.

April 6-11

Sunday: Loving God, help us to learn from what others have seen, so that we might grow in understanding across lines of difference. **Amen.**

Monday: Using the online map, locate a ministry in a country far away from you. What needs are being addressed there? Say a prayer for the people involved in these ministries.

Tuesday: Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Make a gift to help ensure healthy food for infants.

Wednesday: The vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Visit pcusa.org/GOHkits and ask your church to assemble kits for such emergencies.

Thursday: Think of all the things people share with you. Write a thank you note to one of these people and give a gift of thanks for their care.

Friday: Learn about the Indigenous peoples who inhabited the land where you live. Learn the name they used for the land when they lived there.

April 13-18

Passion/Palm Sunday: Guide us through the paths that feel lonely, assured that you are always with us. Be with us in the darkness as we walk by faith and not by sight. **Amen.**

Monday: Immunizations give us hope for a day when certain diseases will no longer cause sickness and pain. Give a gift for each immunization you have received.

Tuesday: It is estimated that nearly 1 in 11 people around the world will go to bed hungry each night. Make a gift to eliminate hunger.

Wednesday: Education helps lift people out of poverty. OGHs helps kids world wide attend school. Make a gift and consider donating books to a local reading program.

Thursday: Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by war and disasters. Give a gift for each blanket on your bed.

Friday: Communication can be incredibly difficult after a disaster, especially if the internet isn't working. Give a gift for every phone your family has.

April 20

Sunday - Resurrection/Easter/ One Great Hour of Sharing: Present the gifts in your coin box to your congregation. Say a prayer for all those who will receive help from your generosity.

For more locations and ministries, go to pcusa.org/oghsmap or scan this code.




ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

The CE team is excited for the Easter Bunny Breakfast on April 12, 2025. We are looking for donations from the congregation to help make the breakfast a successful fundraiser for the Robert Gunkler Fund (Camp and youth event scholarships). There will be a sign-up sheet outside of the Fellowship Hall, please sign up for what you are able to donate. Thank you for your consideration!

We are in need of the following items:

8 boxes of Complete Pancake mix (the just add water variety)

5 Jars of applesauce

5 bottles of Pancake syrup

6 packages of mini muffins

1 canister of Coffee

5 bottles of Apple juice





Breakfast with the Easter Bunny



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

8:30-11AM AT WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
101 EAST MAIN STREET, PALMYRA NY

Come enjoy a breakfast of:
pancakes, sausage, muffins & applesauce
milk, juice & coffee

Get your picture taken with the
Easter Bunny for FREE!!

Cost: \$5

Children 3 and under are free

• PROCEEDS GO TO THE ROBERT D. GUNKLER CAMPSHIP FUND •

WHY ON EARTH WOULD ANYONE WORRY??????

It's part of the human element to stew about things... what will happen if ... Why did I do ... Will the weather ... The list goes on of all the little and big things we could worry about. One Circle member said that when we ask ourselves a question, there are three answers - Yes, No and Wait awhile. It's in the 'wait awhile' area that is worry time. Perhaps worrying is something we have control over, and we hate to let go of control. Our minds are so busy thinking of possibilities. Sometimes the situation is so massive that its hard to shift through all the areas where one might worry. We become overwhelmed.

It's hard to surrender our fears to the Lord. How do we trust enough in Jesus to allow Jesus to carry our cares? How do we let go? Do we even know if God is listening? Are the worries lifted thorough the love of Jesus? God will provide, he cares for you – trust in God should supersede anxieties about daily life and material possessions.



Love.

The love languages that were included in the Sermon on the Mount. They were included along with the Be attitudes, the Lords Prayer, and life strategies and descriptions of what a hypocrite is. Here are the 5 Love Languages along with a suggestive sixth one. These love languages connect us to others. Once we know what our languages might be, we can better relate to others and be fully understood. We can ensure our intentions are not misinterpreted when the actions are not lost in translation. We need to communicate what we need and if let down, explain why. This is all part of owning our love languages.

1. **Words of affirmation** ~ words that indicate that you are seen [give & receive]
2. **Acts of service** ~ not necessarily big, more individual thoughtfulness and communal
3. **Receiving gifts** ~ Thoughtfulness .. OR Gift giver
4. **Quality time** with full focus on others – active listener – just being there
5. **Physical Touch** – a caring touch of a Sholder or a hug... *challenge with harassment concerns in our society.*
6. **Food** is another powerful love language – preparing, serving and eating together

Once we spoke of the love languages, we were open to listening and truly hearing our guest speaker, Michelle Fontaine. She spoke of her journey with God and her strong faith and how it has been a spiritual ministry to those she cares for with her touch. Our circle was a safe place for her to offer her story. Through it we heard how she lifted her worries to the Lord. She spoke of ways that Jesus walked with her and supported her through each and every struggle and success. As a certified massage therapist,



her hands speak to the bodies and souls to locate and relieve the knots in muscles and hearts of those on her table. This intimate way of connecting is how she uses one of her love languages to care for others.

Our circle was motivated and did not want the session to stop. We wanted to hold onto Michelle and her husband Bret to treasure the connection that was created. It was

a powerful presentation and taught us love on so many levels of care and living. It humbled us to look at our lives and where we could also radiate love.

Is God listening?

Carol Sloan told the story of a little girl praying to God to give her 100 dolls for Christmas. She told her aunt that this was her request of God. After Christmas the aunt asked her if she received the 100 dolls. The little girl said “no.” The aunt suggested, “Maybe God was not listening.” The little girl said, “God was listening, God said NO!” We have to be open for all possibilities. Lift them up to the Lord and then listen with discerning ears and hearts. No Worries.

Blessings to you all from Jan Taylor and Randy Kennard



seeking Help for Child Care

During Worship

Question: Would you think about volunteering to help provide Child Care so a young family may attend worship?

There has been lots of discussion on having Child Care available for any visitors interested in coming to worship. It is thought that if WPC advertises a Place for Children that we may attract younger families.

The CE Committee has spent time rearranging rooms to help with this process, and the Property Committee has spent time working to provide TV screens for the worship to be watched live by the childcare providers.

Many ideas are being discussed. However, the first priority is to have volunteers and begin to have people to help.

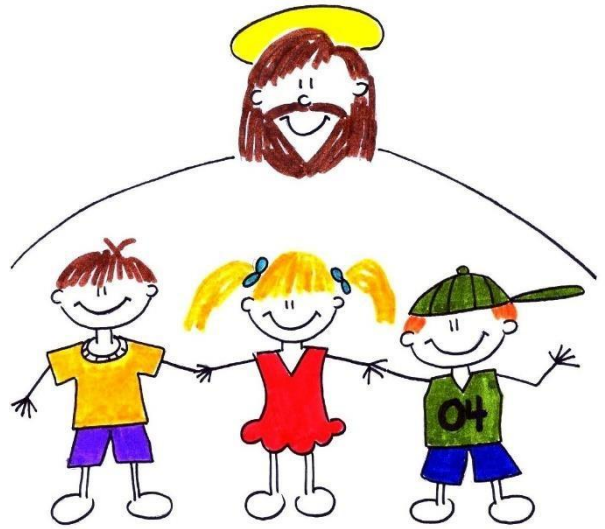


SO, I am seeking **2 people each week** to help. Then I will advertise the coverage. I will make a rotating schedule with any willing volunteers.

Please Contact: Jody Pruitt 315-879-7225 or jody.pruitt@gmail.com

Thank you ♥

~ Jody





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 4	Ruth Dantz
March 4	Barbara Pieters
March 11	Eric Chapman
March 21	Cheyenne Matz
March 22	Cassie Hughes
March 22	Sue Pringle
March 22	Bill Bush
March 26	Mary Beth LaBerge
March 27	Tricia Owen
March 29	Jacqueline DeBrine
March 30	Scott Bush



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 21	Bill & Elaine Hassler
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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!

The team minutes received for February include:

WPC Christian Education Team Minutes February 11, 2025

Building Faith, Family, and Fellowship. WPC nurtures spiritual growth, joyful fellowship, meaningful community, and global involvement: worshipping and serving God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Present: Jody Pruitt, Emily Hunt, Cim McFarlane

In Spirit: Ellen Avery, Pastor Hodong

Upcoming Events:

February 23- No Sunday School (February break)

March 16- Girl Scout Sunday

March 16- Easter Card Making

March 23- Palm Sunday Bulletin Making

April 12- Easter Bunny Breakfast

April 13- Palm Sunday Parade

April 20- No Sunday School (Easter weekend)

June 1- Spring Children's Service

July 28- August 1- VBS

Continuing and New Business

Sunday School News- Cim shared a concern about the upcoming weekend's forecast. We decided that if weather causes a concern to cancel Sunday School, we will make a Facebook announcement and email Sunday School families.

Easter Bunny Breakfast- April 12- the Spire article went out; the sign-up sheet and bins are up. Decorations should be in storage. We will count the bags of bunny food on Sunday to make sure we have enough. Emily sent an email to the Easter Bunny inviting him to come from 8:30-11:00. Cim will advertise on Facebook.

Toddler Time- Cim shared that numbers continue to be big. Cim plans to shop for supplies needed, thanks to the generous donation from the Women's Association.

Little Froggies Daycare Update- There will be inspections on February 17.

Triennium- Avery and Nella aren't interested in attending. We will reach out to the other kids eligible to see if they are interested. Cim shared an email that she received about Triennium.

Camp Whitman Board- Cim shared that staffing is going well. Directors and some staff members will be trained through the ARC and Mosaic to learn more to help Pathfinder Campers. A dinner will occur in Chili on May 10. There will be a chicken BBQ at camp during Memorial Day weekend for a fundraiser. There are plans to add a welcome center and more bathrooms with showers closer to the cabins.

Girl Scout Sunday- March 16. The girls will lead the children's sermon. Girl Scout cookies will be served for coffee hour.

VBS- The True North Kit has arrived!

Youth Group- Pastor Hodong, Cim, and Lisa P had their first youth group on February 2. A dinner was served, there was social time, Hodong posed the question, "Where do we see God in our lives?" The youth discussed. 4 high school students were in attendance.

Nursery- The AV downstairs should be ready in February. Jody will write a Spire article seeking volunteers (we will need 2 each Sunday). If you are able to volunteer your time, please reach out to Jody.

Next meeting: March 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm virtual meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hunt

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes
January 7th, 2025

Present: Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Patti Dlugosh, Muffie Beato, Sandy Betts & Hodong Hwang

In Support: Sara Bush & Linda Pulcini

Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle *This month's scripture and prayer*

• **Old Business:**

1. Approval of last month's minutes & annual Report *corrections? Motion: Sandy M. Second: Nancy T.*
 - i. Annual Report – Correct spelling of gluten in 2 locations in document
 - ii. Update treasure's report to actual deposits and expenses
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status– Sandy M. –

Jan-25	Deacons Checking Account
Initial balance	\$1,007.92
Additions	\$ -
Deductions	
Ending balance **	

Financial status reflected in annual report 2024

- a. Balances
3. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards - card from R.M., W.C. & S.C.
4. Next Communion – on January 12th ~ Usually on 2nd Sunday of the month
 - a. Prepared 108 and served 89 on Christmas Eve in December 9 (included choir)
 - b. Verify that enough Pita, loaf and juice for this month? enough
 - c. Who can assist in set-up– January 12th ~ Randy, Nancy and Muffie
5. Review of Prayer List and adjust accordingly of needs
6. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts - visits with special meaningful moments of faith
7. *December counts included in annual report*

2025					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January					
Year to Date	0	0	0	0	

8. Any updates or feedback from Poinsettia deliveries- two were delivered to folks other than initially identified. Delivered total of 17.
9. Special Needs Mailings – some cards sent monthly with other items folks included in rotating list. More names were added based on review of the prayer list.

Bible Verse: Psalm 94:18 I cried out, I'm slipping!" but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me.

Dear Lord, no matter what I face you are always there to support me. Don't need to fear what lies ahead because you already have a plan. Amen.

• **New Business:**

- Annual Report – submitted ~ thanks to all for review and updates

Meeting closed with prayer

Next meeting Tuesday 2/4/2025 @ 10:00 am

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

Fellowship Meeting

1/12/2025

Present: Roxanne Dobson, Jan Taylor, Norm Underwood and Sue Pringle

Excused: Terry Gendron, Val Gendron, Ray Marr

The Fellowship Team met for a short meeting on Sunday due to the weather earlier in the week. We focused on the Game Night scheduled for Saturday, 1/25/25 at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet was posted by Norm, and an announcement was made during worship. Norm will bring ice cream sandwiches, Jan will bring veggies, and Roxanne will pick up beverages. Pizza will be ordered when we get a head count that evening.

The Team also gave Norm a card thanking him for his dedicated 7 years as chairperson for the committee.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 2/4/25 at 3 pm to plan for Sweets and Treats on March 2nd, 2025, and a Potluck on March 30th following worship.

Respectfully submitted, Roxanne Dobson

February 2025 Fellowship Minutes

Present: Roxanne Dobson, Norm Underwood, Sue Pringle, Jan Taylor and Val and Terry Gendron.

Excused: Ray Marr

Opened the meeting with Prayer

Review of Game Night

- **What went well:** Fantastic attendance of 32 people! Snacks were wonderful and enjoyed by all.
- **What improvements to consider:** Possible timer for games so that people move to a new game. We need to advertise more, possibly to Mom and Tots, other churches. We also need to consider dietary needs. The cost was higher because we had to order a gluten-free pizza which was very expensive. The biggest concern was signup as we had to delay ordering pizza because attendance was much higher than expected.
- **Maybe next night to plan for;** On Hold

Meeting dates

- **What works well for everyone going forward:** We have decided to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 3 PM.

March 2025 activities

- **3/2/25 Sweets N Treats:** Mardi Gras theme is planned. Jan will put up a signup sheet and I will send a flyer to display on the screens before worship.
 - Sue will pick up creamer and juice.
- **3/30/25 5th Sunday Potluck:** We talked about possibly having a different country theme. We decided on “Your favorite Childhood” dish to pass. A flyer will be made for the pre-worship display and sent to Irene and Kathy. Desserts will be made by Norm, Jan and Sue. Jan will put up a signup sheet so we have some idea of how many will attend. Attendees should supply their own table service.
 - Sue will pick up creamer and juice.

Future activities

- **Sunday May 4th** has been agreed upon to hold the Church picnic following Worship. This will be a potluck style picnic where Fellowship will provide hotdogs and hamburgers along with desserts and beverages. Attendees should supply their own table service.
- **Sunday June 29th** will be a potluck following Worship. Attendees should supply their own table service. Refreshments and desserts will be supplied by Fellowship.
- **Sunday August 31st** will be a potluck following Worship. Attendees should supply their own table service. Refreshments and desserts will be supplied by Fellowship.
- **September, date to be determined:** Possibly hosting another Progressive dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Dobson

Mission and Social Concerns

Minutes 2-6-2025

Present in person: Rena Haigh, Irene Fadden, and Rev. Hodong.

Present via Zoom: Edie Chapman, Cassie Hughes and John Cook.

The meeting opened with the Lighting of the Christ Candle and opening prayer.

Mission Budget for 2025 – Session approved our total request. It is wonderful to know mission is important to the session and congregation, because mission is what we should be doing.

Food Cupboard – \$200 each month for the cupboard.

Food Pantry - \$200 each month for the pantry.

Cassie and Sally enjoyed shopping in the past, Irene will finish January money, Edie will do in June and July, Rena is going to St. Martins. Ruth will be asked what her preference is for the purchases for the Pantry.

Thanks to Ruth for thank you in the Spire – letting people know how many served 456 households in year. Food insecurity.

One Great Hour of Sharing – Calendar for Lent was explored with links to PCUSA.

Monetary gifts will be put in the bread loaf and returned on Easter morning.

Worship Service on March 9th.



Presbyterians believe
that the church exists
for mission.

Cassie – introduce OGHS – 3 parts, PDA (Presbytery Disaster), SDOP (Self Development of People, Poor and Oppressed), Presbyterian Hunger Program

Cassie was asked to put together minutes for mission together for Sundays throughout Lent. Bulletin inserts and envelopes are available.

Irene – Children’s Time – Book – Lulu and the Hunger Monster

Sermon time - What we are doing to alleviate hunger

Food Pantry update – Ruth wasn’t present so no report.

Food Cupboard update – putting 3 boxes of cereal each day is 90 boxes of cereal per month.

Cereal Sunday in Memory of Lois Daniels – Lois’s birthday – July 6, 1926

Celebrate the 1,000 boxes Lois gave. How close can we come to her total?

Stuffed Animals and Book – Many books and animals have been given. Now we need to find a place to use them.

Family Promise update: March 17 - we have signed up for dinner. Ruth and Sally volunteered before, but not necessarily for that date. If they can’t, Irene will take dinner.

Good Neighbor Fund Update – Discussion at clergy meeting. Hodong has let those on the clergy council know it may be necessary to suspend the GNF. Support for the GNF will be discussed at the next clergy meeting.

It was suggested that a lay person from each church attend meetings with clergy. This would let clergy not be totally responsible for projects, if new pastors come, the lay people would allow continuity. John found the Williamson Clergy Council was the most active clergy group when he was telling about Family Promise.

Beginning Balance \$1,255.55

2 Deposits 1,180.00

1 check written 1173.75 (in collaboration with the King’s Daughters)

New checks order \$16.95

Rent for 2 adults and 5 children Ending

Balance \$1,244.96

The Mission Team will donate \$1,000 to GNF throughout the year. John commented that it may still be best to deal only with hunger.

Bullis Fund has been used by GNF throughout the past few years. Each year about \$15,000 has been available for the GNF to give to the poor in Palmyra. Paul Rubery is going to retire from the Bullis Fund. It is necessary to talk to Paul and find someone to take his place, learn how to use the ins and outs of the Fund - has been matching grants, 10% match from churches and 100% match from individuals. Rena

Weekend Wellness update – bag to show at Worship Service on the 9th of March

Beginning and Ending Balance \$2,050.00

No Deposits or checks written

of bags delivered in January – 456

of bags delivered 2024-25 school year – 1,852

Presbytery Matthew 25 Grants – end of February. Need to be approved by session and submitted to Presbytery Witness and Mission by March 31. We have been requesting and receiving a grant for the GNF. Paperwork needs to be completed by March 4th so the Session can approve it.

Church World Service hygiene kits – the women’s circle has done this project in the past. We will look to do this with others in the community during the Easter Season (before Pentecost), inviting the Palmyra Community to help make hygiene kits. Edie is looking into purchasing items the correct size for the kits. CWS has supplies for 24 kits costing \$168.

A Greeting Card Project – has been brought up by Hodong and again by Rena. The project would make cards that could be used. Irene will contact Janet M about what is needed to make cards. The community will be invited to attend. Rena suggested cards be given to those in Nursing Homes. Hodong suggested that he could use the cards to minister to the congregation. Lunch could be served to extend the fellowship.

Closing Prayer – Let us Pray: **Dear Lord, help us to live Micah 6:8. “And what does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” Amen**

Our next meeting is March 6th. Rena will be in St. Martins. Edie will be away but will try to be part of the meeting via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Fadden

PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM - MINUTES

January 15, 2025
WPC

Present: Phil Opdycke, James McFarlane, Don Dantz, Gary LaBerge

1. The meeting opened with a prayer.
2. nursery and fellowship hall tv options:
 - A. Switch the fellowship hall tv to the muscle room area. The reasoning for this is that the fellowship tv has less technology and is easier to work with whereas the new tv will be 65 in. with more attachments.
 - B. The old fellowship hall tv would be fine for what is needed in the nursery room.
3. The microphone for Hodong is being checked. It is all about the antennas. One hookup is for the microphone, and one is for the handheld. The clicking is because the sound is switching between the two antennas. We are trying to fix this problem.
4. The new freezer is on order, and we now have it.
5. Ordered and picked up the new motor for the kitchen heater. It was installed by Gary and Matt from Emcor. Phil rebuilt the custom filter for the blower.
6. We repaired the ball valve to the boiler so that the water in the system doesn't overflow onto the basement floor.
7. Moved the Christmas trees back to the upper narthex stairway.
8. Six carbon monoxide detectors have been purchased as a start. Gary will install these battery powered detectors.
9. Gary has replaced 4 new exit lights and repaired 2 others.
10. The sewer purge by Dynamole Company went surprisingly well. There were baby wipes and lots of roots in the line all the way to the street. We will install signage and sanitary containers in each bathroom for the waste.
11. We looked at the blueprints for the sewer lines. There is a separate sewer line for rainwater runoff.

12. Received notification from Little Froggies of their state inspection on February 17th.
13. The lease agreement has been reviewed by Jim DePoint and the Chapman Agency and a couple of small tweaks to it will have to be added.
14. We are looking for a quote for linoleum for the northwest upstairs room where the two sinks will be put in. Maybe also at the entrance from the bathroom to the storage room upstairs.
15. Two sinks will be purchased rollers for the northwest room. One for changing and the other for hand cleaning.
16. There is a need to change the gas shutoff valve for the kitchen stove from its present location. In case of a fire, it is not safe.
17. Long discussion on what to do with all the old CTNS materials not needed by the church Sunday school or the Little Froggies. It will take a lot of sorting and refiling. The rest will be moved to the basement school storage room.

Respectfully submitted by Phil Opdycke

The stated meeting of the session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend HoDong Hwang at 7:00PM in Fellowship Hall with the lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer.

8 Present: Norman Underwood, Phillip Opdycke, Alicia Lynch, Courtney Marr, Irene Fadden, Emily Hunt, Randy Kennard, Janet Manktelow

2 Guests: Roxanne Dobson, Valerie Gendron

0 Absent

0 Excused

A quorum was present.

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to approve giving Roxanne and Valerie a voice at tonight's meeting.
- Motion made by Phillip Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the agenda. Devotions were shared by Irene.

Clerk's Report

- Motion made by Alicia Lynch seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the December Meeting.

Financial Secretary's Report

	<u>Year End 2024</u>		
	2024	2024	YTD% of
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Receipts	\$181,120	\$173,285	104.52%
Expenditures	\$181,555	\$185,198	98.03%
Net receipts/Expenditures	(\$435)	(\$11,913)	

- Motion made by Financial Ministry Team to approve the report including overages in Administration and Property. Motion passed.

Business of the Church

Terms of Call

We held a discussion to solidify the terms of call to be presented to the congregation.

- Motion made by the Finance Ministry Team to present the Terms of Call discussed upon HoDong's acceptance of them.
- Motion made by Finance Ministry Team and carried to give HoDong a one-time bonus of \$4500 to compensate for the unused auto allowance for 2024.

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend HoDong Hwang in the church sanctuary at 11:05 am immediately following the 10:00 am service. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

A quorum was present.

Roxanne Dobson has been nominated to serve as head of the Fellowship Committee. Further nominations were called from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were closed.

- Motion was made by Courtney Marr, seconded by David Taylor and passed to elect Roxanne Dobson as an ordained ruling elder.
- Motion was made by Randy Kennard, seconded by Phillip Opdycke and passed to elect Roxanne Dobson to session as head of the Fellowship Committee.

The following reports were presented for approval: Christian Ed. Ministry Team, Church Statistics-Report of Clerk Session, Deacons Ministry Team, Deacons Treasurer's Report, Fellowship Ministry Team, Finance Ministry Team, Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team, Good Neighbor Fund, Weekend Wellness, Property Ministry Team, Pastors Postscript Report, Women's Association Finance Report, Angel Tree Project, Endowment/Operations Account Balance Report, 21024/2025 Budget, 2024/2025 Salaries and summary of Receipts and Expenditures.

Reverend HoDong asked if there were any questions about the reports. Hearing none, a motion as called for.

*Motion was made by Rena Haigh, seconded by Gary LaBerge and passed to approve all reports as written.

*Motion was made by Susan Leonard, seconded by David Taylor and passed to have session read and approve the minutes from the congregational meeting.

Reverend HoDong explained that the budget for the following year had been approved by session and directed the congregation to review it. He asked if there were any questions. There was a question about the income from investments and the formula for calculation of the income was reviewed. It was noted that although 2025 is not a balanced budget there should not be any problems meeting our obligations.

Reverend HoDong was excused so the congregation could review and vote on the terms of call.

- Motion was made by Rena Haigh, seconded by Phillip Opdycke to approve the Terms of Call for 2025. Ballots were distributed and tallied, passing unanimously.
- Motion was made by Phillip Opdycke, second by David Taylor to close the annual meeting with a prayer from Rev. HoDong. Carried.

Janet Manktelow
Clerk

Reverend HoDong Hwang
Moderator

Alicia Lynch
Substitute Clerk

Our Prayer Concerns (updated February 18, 2025)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Paul Hargrave (requested by Esther Hargrave)

Family & Friends of Danny Binkley (requested by Randy & Steve Kennard)

Family & Friends of Marv Redman (requested by John Cook & Wilma Redman)

Family & Friends of Kathy Rynders (requested by the Deacons)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Josh Polle

Please pray for those of our congregation with immediate concerns:

Ellen Avery, Joan Barnard, Lynn Elting, Gary Hughes, Frank Lawrence, Janet Manktelow, Tricia Owen, Nancy Roets, Harry/Laurie Schraffenberger

Congregation members needed continued prayers:

Scott Bush, Irene Fadden, Jonnie Fontaine, Pam Gnagy & Family, Cim McFarlane, Wilma Redman, Jan Semans, Scott Semans, David Squier, Fran Storm

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

Alex, Doreen Alvito, Sarah Carone, Charlotte, Melissa Dantz, Joey DelPapa, Daphne DeMeyers, Ted & Nancy Elsenheimer, Glenn Groff, Janet Haigh, Sally Haigh, Russell Harris, Bobby & Eileen Haurand, Julie Lich, Jerry Locey, Jessica Locey, Iris McConnell, Betty McEwen, Deb/Bruce Merla, Kate Pfaff, Tane Robinson, Jack Sweeney, Andy Umreiko, Vicki Wilkins

May your prayers go out to:

All caregivers; All those affected by natural disasters; All those who have no one to pray for them; All victims of violence, hatred and hunger; Please pray for those that wish to remain anonymous

Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless renewal has been requested.

Prayers of Intercession are offered each day by our Deacons. To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Randy Kennard, chair of Deacons, Sandy McMenamin, or Kathy in the Church office.



MARCH 2025

SUN.

MON.

TUES.

WED.

THURS.

FRI.

SAT.

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
						1
2 Transfiguration of the Lord 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Sweets & Treats 5-7 pm Youth Group	3	4 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 3 pm Fellowship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	5 Ash Wednesday 7 pm service	6 9:30 am Mission/ Social Concerns 11 am Bible Study	7 World Day of Prayer	8
9 Communion & Cereal Sunday Mission Sunday Daylight saving time begins 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group		11 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	12 7 pm FH Boy Scouts	13 11 am Bible Study	14	15
16 2nd Sunday in Lent Girl Scout Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel preaching 5-7 pm Youth Group	17	18 SPIRE DEADLINE 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	19 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	20 Mr. Roger's Day	21	22
23 3rd Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	24	25 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	26	27 11 am Bible Study	28	29
30 4th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Potluck Luncheon 5-7 pm Youth Group	31					



APRIL 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 3 pm Fellowship 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	2	3 9:30 am Mission/ Social Concerns 11 am Bible Study	4	5
6 5th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	7	8 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	9 7 pm FH Boy Scouts	10 11 am Bible Study	11	12 7 am to Noon Easter Bunny Breakfast
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Palm Sunday Parade 5-7 pm Youth Group	14	15 Spire Deadline 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	16 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday 7 pm Service	19
20 Easter Sunday Communion & Cereal Sunday No Sunday School 10 am worship service One Great Hour of Sharing	21	22 Earth Day 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	23	24 11 am Bible Study	25	26 9 am to 9 pm FH Camp Whitman Fundraiser Dinner
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	28	29 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	30			