

**Romans 12:3**

**“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of your faith.”**

# WESTERN SPIRE

## OCTOBER 2024

Many Christians consider that the book of Romans is arguably the most significant in the Bible, as Martin Luther called it ‘The chief part of the New Testament.’ John Calvin, whose theological framework had led to the development of the Presbyterianism, argued that one can find the whole of the scripture through Romans. I hope we may study the book of Romans together sometime during our Bible Study class.

In Romans, after discussing the core doctrine of Christian faith in the first part of the book until chapter 11, Paul deals with practical applications of the doctrine in the second part that begins with chapter 12. The thesis statement of the second part is in verse 1 and 2: “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, not following the pattern of this world.” Then, Paul gives his first practical advice to the church of Rome in verse 3, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of your faith.”

Of course, there are many things we should consider about our boundary limits in our personal lives. For example, it is important for us to have high self-esteem to appreciate and value ourselves, but it doesn’t mean that we must believe in our abilities to control ourselves, others, and/or situations. There is a limit to be drawn as a Christian, about which pastor Tim Keller said, “In the Christian gospel, deep humility and deep confidence are present at the same time. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone.”

I believe Paul’s advice is beyond a personal level and is true for the families, groups, and nations, as well. For example, did you know that pepper was a major cause, if not the sole cause, for the British invasion of India? Pepper was a luxury good even to be used as currency in 17<sup>th</sup>~18<sup>th</sup> century and was considered a symbol of social status for the upper-class in Britain. They invaded India for the purpose of acquiring spices because they believed it was permissible to control another country and exploit its resources, which reminds me of verse 3, “They thought of themselves higher than they should.”

Eugenics might be another example in history. It was a scientific hypothesis in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as a form of discrimination, racism, and colonialism to suggest that human characteristics were different depending on the outcome of generic inheritance. It was a form of ideology to control the people in the margin in the name of “the improvement of human race,” which tried to eliminate so-called “social ills” (individuals to be unfit) through involuntary sterilization, segregation and social exclusion. Can you believe that such inhumane practices like xenophobia, antisemitism, sexism, racism, colonialism, as well as justifications of slavery came into existence in the form of “scientific proof”? This practice reminds me of verse 3, “They thought of themselves higher than they should” in the name of science.

This fall, let us think of the meaning of Paul's first advice about living a Christian life as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God: "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with your faith." As Paul himself confessed that he learned the secret of being content with whatever I have" (Philippians 4:11), let us learn to have the peace of God in our lives without thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought. Then, we may realize that Paul's previous challenges in chapter 12 actually talk about a quite radical and revolutionary Christian lifestyle, even though they sound naïve and passive, as he said, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be arrogant but associate with the lowly. Do not claim to be wiser than you are."

Peace of Christ,  
Rev. Hodong Hwang



**The Problem: Food Insecurity**

Almost **30%** of the world experiences moderate to severe food insecurity. In Honduras, more than **60% of the population is living in poverty** - without access to reliable and nutritious food and medicine.

**60%**  
of Hondurans  
live in poverty.

**Our Answer:**

**Meet the Need, One Family at a Time**

Healthy Ninos runs a Nutritional Rehabilitation Center in a rural community in Honduras where the challenge of food insecurity is met one child and family at a time. Our program provides children and families with 1-3 months of nutritious food, proper medical care, good hygiene and education, and safe water. This simple, inexpensive approach works and has impacted the health and lives of:

**137 children and mothers in the first six months of 2024.**

Our commitment (and yours) to these communities and families is a simple and powerful example of how we can be the hands and feet carrying out the love Jesus inspires in each of us.



**The Opportunity: Serve More Families**

This past year, the need for our work has grown exponentially. In a typical year, we work with 8 children and their families each month.

**Today, we are serving 24 children and their families each month.**

To meet this growing need and to continue increasing our impact on food insecurity and malnutrition in Honduras we need to raise **\$100,000**.

**3x More Families Served**  
this year



**The Ask: \$100,000 to Grow Our Impact**

**\$100,000.** This is a big ask from you, our community of supporters, volunteers and donors. You are the ones who got us here and the ones who have enabled these children and their families to see a life they didn't imagine. It is your support that allows us to give out each vitamin, plate of food, and cup of clean water.

We are asking you to give, but we are also asking you to help us build this community. Help us find more people who will give, who will serve, who will help us do the good work of meeting the need of food insecurity one child and family at a time.

**Give what you can and ask a friend to do the same. Together we will be the hands and feet of Jesus.**



## *A Letter from the Desk of Dr. Herman Sagastume*

Food Insecurity is very real and close to my heart, as I came from a low-income family. We often did not have enough food in my early childhood, so I suffered from mild malnutrition. When I became a professional, my dream was always to help as many people as possible. Many children in Honduras can only dream of eating healthy foods and experiencing a safe and enriching environment. The Nutrition Center turns these dreams into reality, and it is priceless to see the children playing and enjoying life.

We want to offer better health and a brighter future to the people in Honduras. With the increased costs of the Nutrition Center, caused from inflation and helping more families, Healthy Ninos could decide to put a limit on the number of families we help each month. But instead, we want to help all of the families we can, filling our Nutrition Center homes. More support is needed for them to thrive. Help Healthy Ninos reach the \$100,000 deficit by donating today! Your donation will make the difference in a child's life- providing food, care at the Nutrition Center, and a chance at a better life. Would you consider partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of these children by contributing towards our need?

God bless you,

*Herman*



### **Considering a Donation?**

- Mail a Check to PO Box 53 East  
Greenville, PA 18041
- Venmo @HealthyNinos
- Donate online @healthyninos.org

Join us on the journey of



understanding how we can better harness fearful and anxious emotions through sisterhood and scripture.

We launched our first circle meeting of the new year with twelve amazing women gathered together. We started a new Bible Study focusing on how to let go of fear and anxiety entitled *Strength in the Struggle*. This new format starts and finishes with a memory verse. Interestingly, when we read something, we may recall about 35%, however, if we memorize something we can recall it years and years into the future almost verbatim. For this reason, each lesson offers a memory verse. The power of this verse, if memorized, is that when there are times of stress, you can recall it as a source of strength and comfort. The memory verse for the first lesson, which focuses on 'Deliverance from fear', is found in Psalm 34:4 *"I sought the lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears"*.

It's strange to talk about fear as we calmly sit in chairs together, this safe space. The world is not crushing down on us, our hearts are not palpitating out of our chests, our rational self is not muddled beyond reason, we have no reason for flight or to shield ourselves from bodily harm. In the quiet of the room, we all reflected upon times, though, when we have experienced these traumatic emotions.



It was stated that fear is like false events that will happen. Not necessarily what truly will occur. It's like a loan shark, not someone who is part of your reality anymore. Money does not have to go to the 'shark', emotions don't need to be spent on the fear. The fear needs to be released, let go. No more value needs to be given to it. Fear that you constantly internalize can destroy you. If allowed, it can affect your health and cause sleepless nights. Fear, if kept as part of your armor, creates barriers



from others and actual reality.

The kind of fear we hold as a child is shaped differently than the one as an adult. The fear of a monster under the bed, the fear of how much a child may be punished by an angry parent, or anxiety of entering a new situation can weaken the resolve of a child. Most of these fears dissolve or weaken as wisdom and experience take hold of reason as a child becomes an adult. However, we realize that the tactile fear that is experienced from a school shooting or an abusive environment are scares that through maturation do not diminish.





Adult fears of loss, bodily injury or isolation and even loss of safety can rob our steadfastness. Even spiders can rattle our resolve. We don't feel as invincible as we might have felt as a teen. Once the final development of the frontal lobe of our brains is formed, around 25 years young, we process situations with more lived and learned experiences, and we become wiser.

Perhaps we carry some ingrained fears from our childhood, but they are shaped differently. Perhaps we gain other fears as life goes on. We are each different and see and feel the world differently.

It is as we step back and look at these fears from a spiritual perspective that we can grasp resources to strengthen our resolve. Though some faiths have a threatening God with rath filled consequences to perhaps control, there are other faiths where trust, love and strength are garnished. Once with the Lord we are driven to do good work. We can lay the groundwork to guide others, not with fear, but with love and support. We are all human and our flaws are many. We do not need to fear the Lord, but trust. We can lean on the Lord to seek the answers and through that action, we are delivered from our fears. ~ Fear not for I am with you.



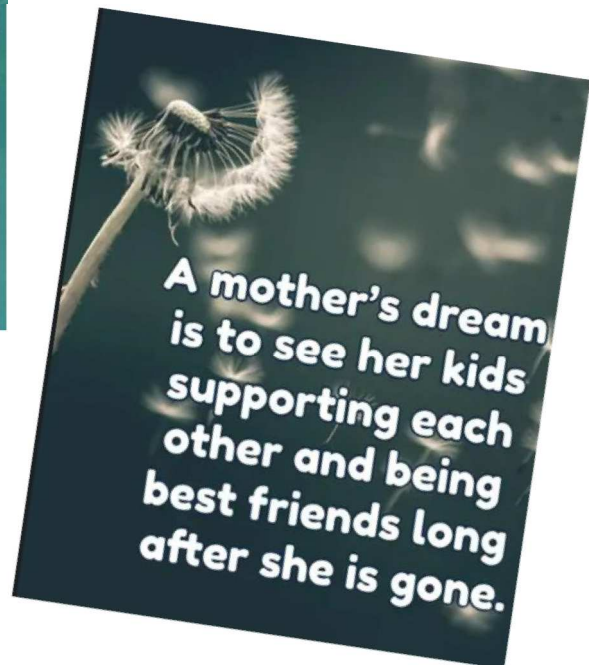
***Come be courageous and join our conversation as we try to understand our way in our faith.***

***Join us the third Wednesday of each month in Fellowship Hall at 1PM***

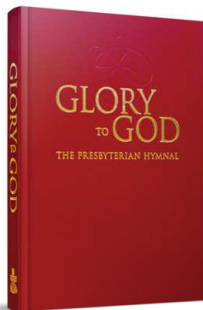
Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.

*Vivian Greene*

Life doesn't allow us to go back and fix what we have done wrong in the past, but it does allow us to live each day better than our last.



# Glory to God Hymnal



## Nameplate Purchase

**Cost per hymnal: \$25**

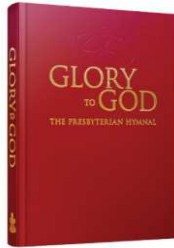
Buy a nameplate that will be added to our new hymnals. Nameplates can be bought in the memory, in honor, or celebration of anyone you choose.

Please fill out the Nameplate form that is in the bulletin, Spire, or email. Checks can be made out to the Western Presbyterian Church. Please mark "nameplates" in the memo section.

*Please give your check and form to Sue L, Alicia L, Courtney, or place it in the Worship mailbox. Feel free to mail in your form and check to the main office as well.*



# NAMEPLATE ORDER FORM



Order date:

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Your Name:

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## **Nameplate Information:**

Circle what you want your nameplate to say

**In Memory Of    In Honor Of    In Celebration Of**

Clearly print the name or phrase you would like it to say

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Please place this form and your check in the  
Worship mailbox, mail it into the Main Office, or  
give it to a member of the Worship Team.

WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





### Help Wanted!

Trick or Treat on Main Street will be on Saturday, October 26.

The CE team is looking for donations of Halloween candy to hand out to all the trick or treaters.

There will be a donation box outside of the sanctuary.

We appreciate your consideration.

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## **SEMI-URGENT!!**

The Fellowship Team is looking for someone to be chairperson starting next year.

If you or someone you know is interested in an awarding, fun, yet challenging position with a great team, please contact a member of the Fellowship Team:

Norm Underwood, Sue Pringle, Ray Marr, Roxanne Dobson, Val or Terry Gendron or Jan Taylor.

Thank you.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October 3	Carol Campbell
October 4	John Cook
October 9	Rochelle Morse
October 12	Gail Rush
October 15	Don Dantz
October 19	Wes Barager
October 20	Irene Fadden
October 27	Rebecca Underwood
October 27	Sheila Koeberle
October 28	Wilma Redman
October 30	Gary Hughes

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 18	James & Cim McFarlane
October 19	Don & Ruth Dantz

**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 September include:**

WPC Christian Education Team

Minutes September 10, 2024

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

Present: Jody Pruitt, Emily Hunt, Cim McFarlane, Pastor Hodong

In Spirit: Ellen Avery

### **Upcoming Events:**

September 29- First Day of Sunday School and Back to Sunday School Breakfast

October 26- Trick or Treat on Main Street

November 10- Christmas Card Making

December 1- No Sunday School (Thanksgiving weekend)

December 29- No Sunday School (Christmas weekend)

January 5- Children's Service Epiphany

January 12- Valentine Card Making

March 16- Easter Card Making

March 23- Palm Sunday Bulletin Making

April 13- Palm Sunday Parade

April 20- No Sunday School (Easter weekend)

May 18- Spring Children's Service

July 28- VBS

### **Continuing and New Business**

**Camp Whitman-** The 2024 camp season was a success. There is a goal to increase the number of staff for the 2025 summer. Cim is going to camp on Thursday for the retired pastor's lunch.

**Presbyterian Youth Triennium-** The theme for Triennium 2025 will be As If We Were Dreaming. It will be held July 28-31 in Louisville, Kentucky. It is being held at a convention center and participants will stay in nearby hotels. Several WPC youth are eligible to attend.

Cim has stepped down as the Presbytery registrar for Triennium. Emily will reach out to Phil and Irene to ask them to mention this at the next Presbytery meeting.

**VBS-**Cave Quest was a success. Emily placed a thank you announcement in the September Spire. We had our biggest year yet! Cim and Lisa met recently for a recap. They explored ideas for lunches for next year- Lisa suggested asking companies to sponsor a lunch a day, inviting Retro Taco to come in as a food truck lunch. They are weighing the option of including Kona Ice again next year. The tee shirts were a success and will be ordered again for next year.

**2025 VBS-** Cim will order the new curriculum- True North

**Trick or Treat on Main Street-** Cim will put a donation box out for candy donations. Emily sent a flier for the Spire and Sunday morning announcements requesting donations from the congregation.

**Toddler Time-** Session approved Cim's proposal for Toddler Time. The first WPC date will be October 1 and will rotate each week with the PCC.

**Back to Sunday School Breakfast-** September 29- Emily will order 3 breakfast pizzas, Jody will make muffins and bring orange juice. Cim will bring a fruit salad and cider. We are looking into getting pumpkins to decorate and to play tic-tac-toe with. We will make pumpkin magnets to send to our college students. Jody signed up for coffee hour to serve leftovers.

**Nursery-** we discussed the possible need of a nursery. Cim knows several families who would attend if a nursery was available. We discussed a possible Sunday School service project to clean the nursery. Cim would like to see two volunteers each week in the nursery. Jody is still willing to go up if the need arises during the service.

**Youth Group-** Lisa P, Cim, and Pastor Hodong met to talk about the youth group with both churches and to possibly include the Catholic Church. Cim is thinking about apple picking. Pastor Hodong will reach out to the Catholic Priest.

**Labyrinth-** We talked about using the labyrinth at the Episcopal Church. This could be used for a youth group event or an educational theme. Pastor Hodong will talk to Keisha to set up a day before winter comes.

**Other News-** Pastor Hodong shared that he is looking for two ping pong tables for Fellowship Hall. He asked Cim to lead the children's sermon on September 29.

**Next meeting:** October 1, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Hunt



## Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

August 6th, 2024

**Present:** Sandy McMenamain, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Sandy Betts, Patti Dlugosh, & 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 & corrections** *Motion: Patty D. Second: Sandy B*
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status– Sandy M. –

Aug-24	Deacons Checking Account
<b>Initial balance</b>	\$ 989.37
Additions	\$ 160.00
Deductions	
<b>Ending balance</b>	\$ 1,149.37

Description of Additions: + three deposits

Memorial gift of \$30 for Walt Lester & Offertories of \$87 and \$43

Description of Subtractions: - no expenses

- a. Balances
3. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards
  - a. - returned card for W.L.G, get new address and forwarded card
  - b. Phone all from Special Needs card recipient – profusely thanking Deacons for cards
4. Communion – on July 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Usually on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month
  - a. Prepared 72 and served 48 in July (Prep for **72** folks – the new standard (18/tray))
  - b. Sufficient Loaf, pita and Juice for next 2 Sundays
  - c. Who can assist in set-up on August 11<sup>th</sup> ? RK; NT; SM; & TBD~ SB & PD
5. Update of Prayer concerns: Define where extra outreach is needed / adds, removals etc. Managed by Sandy M.
6. Group Prayer – Lord, hear our prayers
7. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts - visits with special meaningful moments of faith

2024					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	7	13	63	41	1/14/24
February	17	16	60	43	2/18/24
March	22	16	76	79	3/31/24
April	14	16	55	45	4/21/24
May	9	19	56	53	5/12/24
June	12	10	71	51	6/16/24
July	10	18	54	48	7/14/24
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>360</b>	

S.S. created cards  
28 S.S. created cards  
21 Easter Lily Deliveries  
3 bouquets from TD funeral  
3 bouquets from TD funeral  
23 bouquets from JB funeral

8. Special Needs cards –
  - a. Special Care Mailings Current Roster with additional names for rotating months kept by Deacons totaling 24 mailed each month – List managed by Sandy B.
  - b. Bible Verse: **Galatians 5:22-23** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

- **New Business:**

- Person has voiced an interest in joining Deacons. The name will be presented to Session for approval.

Meeting closed with prayer

**Next meeting Tuesday 9/3/2024 @ 10:30am**

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

## Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

September 3rd, 2024

**Present:** Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, & Hodong Hwang

**In Support:** Sara Bush, Sandy Betts, Patti Dlugosh & Linda Pulcini

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

• **Old Business:**

9. **Approval of last month's minutes & corrections** *Motion: Sandy M. Second: Nancy T.*

10. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status– Sandy M. –

Sep-24	Deacons Checking Account
<b>Initial balance</b>	\$ 1,149.37
Additions	\$ 49.00
Deductions	\$ 69.20
<b>Ending balance</b>	\$ 1,129.17

Description of Additions: +\$21 + \$28 from offertory

Description of Subtractions: -\$69.20- postage & cards

a. Balances

b. Offertory management of Deacon Donations – Instead of Val Gendron collecting Deacon donations depositing it and then communicating totals to Sandy, we will now weekly collect the donations and deposit them ourselves. Only if there is a check, or name associated with the deposit will be communicating the deposit to Val.

c. Authorize renewal of subscription to monthly Devotionals, These Days, at \$139/ year

11. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards -

12. 2 Communion Sundays this month prior to our next Deacons meeting. Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and also world communion Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

a. Going forward, prepare 64 cups, 16/tray, for regular non-holiday Sundays. (This is a change from previous months.)

b. Enough pita, loaf and juice for this month... WOW, Patty D. has baked enough loaves for many months going forward. Blessings to the mighty baker!! Before World communion Sunday we will need more juice.

c. Who can assist in set-up on the 8<sup>th</sup> ? RK/ NT and ??? 10/6~ TBD

13. Update of Prayer concerns: Define where extra outreach is needed / adds, removals etc.

14. Group Prayer – Lord, hear our prayers

15. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts - visits with special meaningful moments of faith

2024					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	7	13	63	41	1/14/24
February	17	16	60	43	2/18/24
March	22	16	76	79	3/31/24
April	14	16	55	45	4/21/24
May	9	19	72	53	5/12/24
June	12	10	86	51	6/16/24
July	10	18	67	48	7/14/24
August	13	14	63	45	8/11/24
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>405</b>	

S.S. created cards  
28 S.S. created cards  
21 Easter Lily Deliveries  
3 bouquets from TD funeral  
23 bouquets from JB funeral

16. Special Needs cards –

a. Special Care Mailings Current Roster of 18 names with remaining 6 in a rotation – list managed by Sandy B.

b. Bible Verse: [Ecclesiastes 5:2](#) Do not be quick to speak, and do not be hasty in your heart to utter a word before God. After all, God is in heaven, and you are on earth. So let your words be few.

17. Session vote re. accepting Muffie Beato as a deacon.

- **New Business:** Further discussion regarding one person on confidential care list. Concern re. community perspective.

Meeting closed with prayer

Next meeting Tuesday 10/8/2024 @ 10:30am

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

## **Fellowship Meeting**

**9/6/2024 2:00 PM**

Present: Ray Marr, Sue Pringle, Val Gendron, Terry Gendron, Roxanne Dobson, Norm Underwood

**Picnic 9/22/24:** Had a lot of meat left over last year. Cut back to 30 each hots and hamburgers with rolls. Roxie will contact Save-A-Lot for any deals. Val will bring relish, Ray will bring grills, Sue to get small ketchup and chopped onions. Norm will get iced tea and lemonade. Will use the red and white checked table covers.

**Western Horizons 10/20/24:** just a fancier coffee hour to celebrate our members who have served more than 50 years. Ray to bring cream puffs. Details to be tabled until the next meeting.

**Progressive dinner 11/2/24:** Jan has been leading this event. Have 2 hosts: Rena and Jody. No decision on who will do dessert and appetizers. No discussion about entrée. This is tabled until the next meeting when Jan can update us.

HoDong's 1 year installment is 11/12/24. Waiting to hear from the worship team on any plans we can help with.

**STILL NO ACTIVITY ON FINDING NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR NEXT YEAR.**

Next meeting is 10/7 at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Underwood

## Mission and Social Concerns Team

### Minutes 9-5-2024

Present Irene Fadden, Cassie Hughes, Edie Chapman, Ruth Dantz, and Rev. Hwang

Excused, because of road work, Sally Chase

The meeting opened at 10:04 with the Lighting of the Christ Candle.

Scripture Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) and prayer

**Mission Budget for 2024** – Finance met during our meeting, and it was approved to submit all of the mission expenses in our original 2024 budget request.

	2024 Budget Request	Money Spent	Money to send
Presbytery Mission Support	\$2,540	\$2,540	
Synod & PCUSA Mission Support	\$ 200		\$ 200
Food Cupboard	\$2,000	\$180	
Food Pantry	\$2,000		
Wayne ARC (Meals on Wheels)	\$2,000		\$2,000
Clint McCoy Feeding Center in Malawi	\$ 500	\$ 250	
Healthy Ninos - water purification	\$ 800		
ARC Home residents	\$ 250		
Family Promise	\$2,000		\$2,000
Good Neighbor Fund	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Weekend Wellness	\$3,000		\$3,000
Victim Resource Center	\$1,000	\$ 100	\$ 900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,285</b>		

**One Great Hour of Sharing** will be taken Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. Cassie will again head this mission and get information to Kathy for the bulletin and Irene for the announcements.

**Food Cupboard** Has worked very well with people signing up for each day. People come to the cupboard walking, riding a motorized scooter, or by car. Sunday there was a man on the motorized scooter filling the cupboard. Irene purchased with mission funds a large quantity of cereal. It will hopefully get us through the month of September.



**Food Pantry update** – Food link no longer gets funding from United Way. When Don ordered, there was limited food available. The pantry will be dependent on other sources to obtain food.

Ruth is looking for someone to handle the first Monday dates at the food pantry. She has something else in the afternoon and it makes for a long day. Peter Fadden will be asked if he would like to take the lead on the first Monday.

Ruth will purchase items needed at the pantry with mission funds. There will be about \$200 to use each month.

During Advent we will collect personal health, cleaning items, and paper products for the pantry. Cassie pointed out that these were items SNAP benefits did not cover. In the past, Ruth has shared that the items are all taken by the end of January.

**Family Promise update: Monday dinners Nov. 4 – Jody & Nov. 25 – Irene**

Joe and his family moved into their own apartment after the dinner we provided in July. We have had no word on Family Promise’s hunt for an apartment house.

Irene and Peter took a turn at the Family Promise table at the county fair. We talked to many people who didn’t know about Family Promise and one family who knew about it from conversations with Terry Goodwin when it was being formed.

**Good Neighbor Fund Update –**

Beginning Balance \$ 967.34

2 Deposits \$3,397.00 from Presbytery Grant, “Christmas in July”, 1 individual

4 checks written \$3,115.00 for 2 rents and 2 utilities for 5 Adults and 4 children

Ending Balance \$1,249.34

**Weekend Wellness update – # bags School Year – 3,278**

Beginning Balance \$4,000 # bags in summer - 624

Deposits \$3,250 - from Finger Lakes Dental Care, PC, and 1 individual

Checks Written \$0

Ending Balance \$7,250 – This balance will be sent to the Food Pantry leaving enough to keep the account open.

Request letters were sent out to local businesses in August, but none of them have returned any money.

Community Connection in Newark contacted parents to pick up the Weekend Wellness bags from the library and if parents couldn't pick the bags up, they were taken to the families by the group.

Eddie commented about donations from 401K payments. She will ask Eric if he would write something for the Spire so others may choose to use the payments to fund a mission project.

**Mission Budget Request for 2025 was discussed and will be finalized at the next meeting.**

The Presbytery, Synod, and PCUSA mission support should not be considered part of the mission's budget. The mission of the greater church should be paid within the regular budget and not be part of the mission budget.

The meeting was closed at 10:55 with a prayer to be able to live Micah 6:8.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Irene Fadden**

# PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM - MINUTES

August 21, 2024  
WPC

Present: Phil Opdycke, James McFarlane, and Gary LaBerge

1. Phil opened the meeting with prayer at 6:35 pm.
2. Gary reported that the new narthex toilet is working great.
  - a. The bill is in Val's mailbox.
3. Phil reported that the basement wall to the toilet has been painted.
4. Discussion about which is to be repaired first: the roof shingles or new paint on the ceiling.
5. We are looking for contractors to do the gutters around the building including downspouts.
6. Reviewed the narthex bathroom lock-the key is missing. We will look into the problem.
7. Looking into duct cleaning and moisture removal because of smells and allergies.
8. The furnace has filters changed every year and there are water pumps that take the moisture out of the machines.
9. Gary reported a letter from ADM that a contractor wishes to visit the furnaces to see if they are working up to code, since we received refunded money from the state.
10. An electronic billboard was investigated. How big, what location, different software. Planting idea seeds and looking into running power.
11. Boiler inspection scheduled for December 2.
12. Looking into replacing a couple of doors: the fellowship hall outside doors and the basement back double door. The roof and gutters come first, then the doors.
13. Gary called Mick Falanga for property maintenance of the outside. Re-mulching and arranging, not mowing. Gary is looking into cement curb blocks for our parking lot. Cost \$300 for (21) six-foot curb blocks. Motion passed.
14. Do we need some sort of a sign or plaque at the back of the church? There is only a sheet of paper saying the office hours. What does Session think?

Respectfully submitted,  
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. The meeting was opened with Lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer.

**7 Present:** Irene Fadden, Alicia Lynch, Philip Opdycke, Norman Underwood, Randy Kennard, Janet Manktelow, Emily Hunt (via ZOOM)

**1 Excused:** Courtney Marr

**0 Absent:**

**A quorum was present.**

- Motion made by Philip Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the agenda for the meeting.

Irene Fadden shared a devotional session.

**Clerks Report**

- Motion made by Norm Underwood seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the June session meeting.

**The following death is recorded: James B. Bush, (M) at the age of 81. DOD 5/17/2024.** A memorial service was held in the church sanctuary on June 28, 2024 at 4:00PM. The service was officiated by the Reverend Dr. Nancy J. Farrell.

**Financial Secretary's Report**

**Summary of receipts and Expenditures**

	Current YTD % of <u>Month</u>	2024 YTD	2024 <u>Budget</u>
<b><u>Budget</u></b>			
<b>Receipts</b>	\$6,668	\$79,483	\$173,285
<b>45.87%</b>			
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$11,316	\$75,263	\$185,198
<b>40.64%</b>			
<b>Net receipts/expenditures</b>	<b>(\$4,648)</b>	<b>\$ 4,220</b>	<b>(\$11,913)</b>

- Motion made by Phil Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the report. The team will meet with the auditor on Sept. 5, 2024. Bill Bush was given all the info on VENMO for online paying.



## **Business of the Church**

There is no new info on the new hymnal purchase at this time.

Randy Kennard said that hopefully the new chairs for Fellowship Hall will be in by the end of August. She will keep us posted on any changes.

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to allow the State to come to the church for an onsite visit to see if it meets requirements for the proposed day care program.

HoDong asked about interest in a Bible Study starting around Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. He was also interested in what the best time to offer it would be. He will put together a survey for the congregation to get their input.

## **Ministry Team Reports**

**Fellowship Ministry Team** – No report

**Worship Ministry Team** - No report

**Deacons Ministry Team** – Martha Beato is interested in joining the team.

**Mission Ministry Team** – The grant money for The Good Neighbor Fund has been received.

**Finance Ministry Team** – They are suggesting we move our payroll to another company due to some issues with the current one. Complete Payroll has been recommended but at a much higher cost.

They will get another quote before a decision is made.

**CE Ministry Team** – VBS was a huge success. There were 50 kids registered.

**Property Ministry Team** – a new cleaning company will start immediately; Larry will continue to mow the lawn. They are looking into replacing all the gutters.

Next Meetings: September 3, 2024

October 8, 2024-this is a change from the normal week.

Devotions for Sept. – Randy

- Motion made by Norm Underwood seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 8:35PM.

Janet Manktelow

Clerk

## Our Prayer Concerns (updated September 18, 2024)

### Grieving:

Family & Friends of Cindy Squier (requested by David & Patti Squier)

Family & Friends of Doris Chriswell (requested by the Deacons)

### Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Adam Hill, Joe Krebbeks, Quintyn McLeod, Josh Polle

### Please pray for those of our congregation with immediate concerns:

Ellen Avery, Scott Bush, The Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell, Pam Gnagy, Frank Lawrence, Tricia Owen, Scott Semans

### Congregation members needing continued prayers:

Wes Barager, Irene Fadden, Cim McFarlane, Linda Pulcini, Wilma Redman, Jan Semans, David Squier, Fran Strom

### Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Gene Bassage, Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton

### Others for whom prayers have been requested:

Dan Binkley, Sarah Carone, Charlotte, Jay Fadden, Nancy & Jerry Frizelle, Bobby & Eileen Haurand, Charlotte Lawrence, Duane Manktelow, Deb Merla, Kate Pfaff, Jennifer Tones, Rose Ann Wagner, Connie West

### 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

### Prayers and Congratulations:

Congratulations to Kari (Chapman) and Cameron Sweeney on the birth of their son Jack Arthur Sweeney born on 09/13/24.

Proud grandparents are Edie and Eric Chapman.

*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.



# OCTOBER 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 10 am to Noon Toddler Time 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	2	3	4	5
6 World Communion & Cereal Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	7 3 pm Fellowship	8 9 am Men's Group 10:30 am Deacons 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	9 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	10 10 am Mission/ Social Concerns	11	12
13 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	14 9 am to 8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	15 Spire Deadline 10 am to Noon Toddler Time 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	16 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale 6:30 pm Property	17 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale 11 am graveside service for Eric & Betsy Goodwin	18 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale	19 9 am to 11 am Rummage Sale 11 am to 2 pm Tear Down
20 Western Horizons Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service One Great Hour of Sharing Special coffee hour	21	22 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	23	24	25	26 Main Street Trick or Treat
27 Reformation Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	28	29 10 am Noon Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	30	31 Halloween		



# NOVEMBER 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1 All Saint's Day	2 Progressive Dinner
3 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Daylight saving time ends 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	4 2 pm Fellowship	5 Election Day 9 am Men's Group 10:30 am Deacons 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	6	7 10 am Mission/ Social Concerns	8	9
10 Communion & Cereal Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	11 Veteran's Day	12 10 am to Noon Toddler Time 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	13 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	14	15	16
17 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	18	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	20 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	21	22	23
24 Christ the King Sunday No Sunday School 10 am worship service	25 Office Open 8:30 am to 2pm	26 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm 10 am to Noon Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	27 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	28 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30