

**“Like nature,
emptying ourselves is
a key to becoming a
true Christian.”**

WESTERN SPIRE

OCTOBER 2025

My favorite fruit of all time is grapes, more specifically, concord grapes. I love watermelon, strawberries and tangerines, too, but there is nothing like concord grapes. I am not a picky eater but, if I am allowed to eat only one fruit for the rest of my life, I doubtlessly would choose concord grapes. I can tell you that I am able to eat concord grapes as if there is no tomorrow. Their tangy taste with soft skin, a good combination of sweet and tart flavors and a jelly-like texture are not just a distinctive but nostalgic flavor for me. I am excited to be able to eat my favorite fruit in a week or two.

I love fall more than other seasons, mostly because it is the season to learn about the beauty of letting things go and releasing of the old to make room for the new. “Am I doing alright? Am I being authentic in my thoughts, feelings and actions rather than being shaped and controlled by external pressures or a desire for approval?” Indeed, fall is a time to turn inward and to connect with a quieter part of myself with these questions, much like nature itself seems to turn to its rest in expectation of the wonderful things to come next year. What if I am turning inward so much that my hidden anxiety or childhood pain kicks in? Concord grapes are my cure.

Like nature, emptying ourselves is a key to becoming a true Christian. The Greek word “Kenosis” (meaning emptiness) is used to describe the incarnation of Jesus in Philippians 2:7, “(Christ Jesus) emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.” This act involved Jesus giving up his divine glory and humbling himself to take on human form and experience human limitations. Hebrews 4:15 says, “(That way,) He could sympathize with our weaknesses and was tested in every respect as we are, yet without sin.” As a Christian, I often wonder how one can become a true Christian without laying down his/her worldly habits, beliefs and thought patterns to which one is so accustomed. Then, he/she can truly embrace the truth found in Christ.

Being a Christian is more than someone professing faith in God, because the Bible says, “Even the demons believe in God and shudder.” (James 2:19) An American novelist, Anne Lamott said, “You can safely assume you’ve created God in your own image, when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.” Unless we live our lives in a “Christlike” way to emulate Jesus in our thoughts and actions, we don’t deserve the name “Christ-ian.”

What does it mean? This fall, we must keep in mind that laying down our own thoughts and desires involves unlearning what we learned from the world. Mature faith involves consciously moving beyond rigid, human-made ideologies and belief systems. A deeper spiritual path requires releasing the ideas that make us a narrow person, a judgmental person, because faith is not conviction. True faith is trusting God who is the source of everything thus much bigger than our small box. If our faith makes us justify division, hatred, or violence, we need to know how to unlearn it. If our faith enables us to be more open, more forgiving, and more inclusive, it is a good sign that we trust in God who is the ultimate Creator and the giver of all that exists.

Learning how to let things go, how to empty ourselves, and how to unlearn what is unhealthy for our spirit are the tasks for which I hope we all spend some time this fall. This process involves questioning, self-reflection, and a willingness to abandon the things limiting our love and compassion for others that often come in the name of religion. And don't forget. God gives us concord grapes to make us feel good about the process.

Peace of Christ,
Rev. Hodong Hwang



LITTLE FROGGIES CHILDCARE, LLC

"WHERE YOUR TADPOLES LEARN TO GROW"

September Update:

We wanted to share a quick update regarding Little Froggies and our first week being open. We officially opened on Wednesday, September 3rd with the hours of 7 am-5 pm. Before opening we had 17 kids enrolled: some full-time and others part-time. Just after less than one week we have 22 children enrolled. We have already received great feedback from both parents and the children! We are excited to continue providing a safe, nurturing environment for families in the community and truly appreciate your support as we continue to grow.

We do have a few open spots available between the classrooms so feel free to share the word with family and friends. Our website is www.littlefroggieschildcare.com if you want to pass that along to interested families.

Thanks again for all of your support and partnership!

Missy & Teri

The Welcome Ministry Team invites all of you to join us in praying this scripture through the month of October.

John 8:31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."



Help Wanted!

Trick or Treat on Main Street will be on Saturday, October 25.

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

There will be a donation box outside of the Sanctuary.

Please bring your donation in by October 19.

We appreciate your consideration.

Women's Circle.....

Everyone has a different idea of what Jesus looks like. Ironically, in the eye of many artists, the holy family looks a lot like the artist themselves. This the mind set used in the Women's Circle as we start our new Bible study.

"Who is JESUS?"



Italian Renaissance Jesus



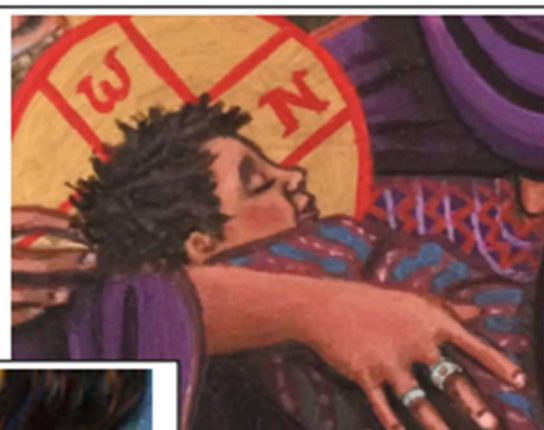
African American Jesus



Austrian Jesus



Lithuania ~ Ukraine
Jesus



Middle eastern –
Refugees: The Holy Family



Contemporary - USA



The third Wednesday of most months is our meeting day. Join us at 1pm. No worries if you have not read the lesson. We will fill you in on what we have learned.

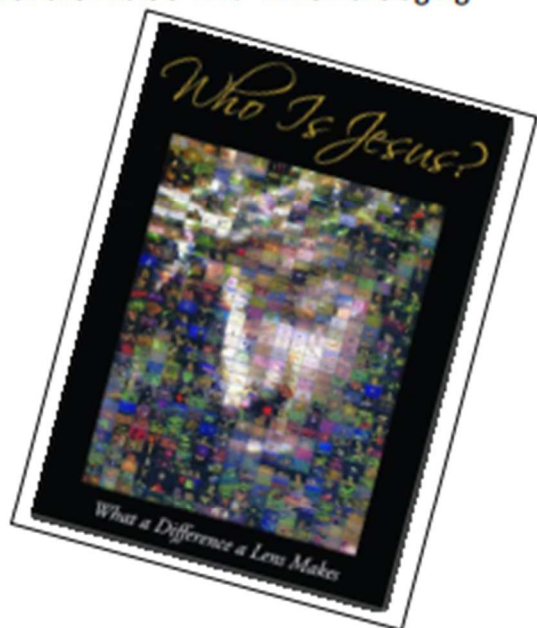
The women gathered in Fellowship Hall to connect in friendship and spiritual growth as well as laughter and some yummy deserts. We started a new study that proves to be both quite challenging and very informative. Jan Taylor and Randy Kennard, who lead the circle, are enthusiastic to latch onto this new adventure.

Each lesson focuses on a different way to see who Jesus is. It is said that if you want to know something, you need to ask others, not just yourself, if you want to really see and understand. Our study starts with the first 4 Gospels of the NT. Already we discovered so much about Mark.

Did you know the book of Mark was the first written book of the Bible's NT? When the aging disciples realized the messiah Jesus was not to return in their lifetime, they found the need to document Jesus's life and teachings. So, 40 years after Jesus died on the cross Mark scribed for Peter to write of Jesus's life starting with his baptism. It is suggested that the other more lengthy Gospels were fashioned around the Book of Mark.

An interesting side note; no one ever thinks about who lived in the house that hosted the last supper. It was Mark that hosted the most historic supper anyone has ever served.

I cannot imagine what else we will discover as we see Jesus through different lens.





The Nutrition Center Renovation Project Is Underway!

For over 30 years, the Nutritional Center has been a place of healing and hope for children and families suffering from malnutrition.

Like any long-standing facility, it is now in need of significant updates. And unfortunately, at the same time, the number of families seeking care has grown.

With your incredible support, we have begun the renovation project of the Nutrition Center! This much-needed upgrade will help us welcome more children and families into a brighter, safer, and more healing space.

We're getting closer to reaching our fundraising goal and every gift brings us one step closer. Will you help us create a better space for families to heal and thrive?

To find more photos, information, and ways to support, visit: healthyninos.org/renovate



Before and Current Photos of the Main Building (above) and Kitchen/Dining Hall (below)



Rendering of the New Nutrition Center

Life Brings New Opportunities

In 2004, Arbenson Pereira Gomez was admitted to the Nutrition Center. At the time, he and his family were facing severe food insecurity and came seeking help. After spending a few months in our care, Arbenson recovered from malnutrition and returned home healthier and stronger.

Now, 19 years later, life has come full circle. Arbenson has been hired by the construction company renovating the very same Nutrition Center that once gave him hope. He had no idea that the place that helped him heal would one day offer him meaningful work. Through his effort, Arbenson is now helping build a new space where other families will have the same opportunity to recover and thrive.

Stories like Arbenson's are why we continue our mission. We strive to provide better health and education for children and families in need. It's a powerful reminder of how the love of Jesus, shown in practical ways, can transform lives for generations.



Our 17th Annual Golf Outing was a huge success! Thanks to your help, we are able to continue the work of fighting against malnutrition in Honduras.

Save the DATE



Oct 16,17,18, 2025

WPC & Zion Fall Rummage Sale

Western Presbyterian Church needs **Your Help** to Work
and Donate goods to the Fall Rummage Sale

HELP Sign-ups will be in WPC Church Hallway

Donation Drop-off
starts Oct 5

Sign-ups Coming
Sept 28

- * Please price Household Items, Toys, and such
- * No need to price clothing or Books
- * Please No large appliances or furniture.

Thanks ~

Women's Association





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 October include:

WPC Christian Education Team

Minutes September 4, 2025

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

In Spirit: Ellen Avery, Pastor Hodong

Upcoming Events:

September 28- Back to Sunday School Breakfast

October 5- First Day of Sunday School

October 25- Trick or Treat on Main Street

TBA Friday in October- Bible Trivia Night with Fellowship Team

November 9- Christmas Card Making

November 30- No Sunday School Thanksgiving Break

December 28- No Sunday School Christmas Break

January 4- Youth Epiphany Service

January 18- Valentine Card Making

February 22- No Sunday School- February Break

March 1- Easter Card Making and Bulletin Making

March 29- Palm Sunday Parade

April 5- No Sunday School Easter

May 31- Youth Service, Last Day of Sunday School

July 27-31- 2026 VBS

Continuing and New Business

Sunday School News-We decided to continue to use *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* for our SS curriculum. Cim will order what we need for this year. We are thrilled that Kelly and Jody will continue as Sunday School teachers, rotating Sundays. Nella has also offered to fill in as needed as an SS teacher this year.

Emily will ask at Session if it is ok to commission Sunday School teachers on October 5.

27 Back to school backpack tags (with a personal message from Cim) were sent out to college students and SS students.

Back to Sunday School Breakfast- run down of items to bring: Cim will bring fruit salad, Emily will bring juice, milk, and will order 3 breakfast pizzas, Jody will bring muffins (check freezer for GF muffins), pumpkins, and juice.

We will have pumpkin tic-tac-toe, a craft, and Jody signed up to host coffee hour that Sunday so all leftovers can be repurposed for coffee hour. This is a church wide event and Cim has reached out to Toddler Time families and VBS families.

Trick or Treat on Main Street- Emily will place an ad in the Spire asking for candy donations. We would love to have Pastor Hodong come to hand out candy and invite families to church and SS. Emily will reach out to Courtney to see if she can make our trick or treat church and SS invites.

Nursery- We have not yet heard from all of Session about the job posting and job description for the possible nursery staff member. Emily will mention this at Session and then hopefully we can start posting the job. Jody will make signs indicating where and when the nursery is available to post around the church. She has also offered to be the volunteer until we have our new hire.

Youth Group- Cim and Lisa have decided they will spend this year scouting local youth groups and use what they learn to make an ideal model for WPC and PRC. Youth Group will be paused until they are ready with our new plan.

Toddler Time- Cim is reluctant to schedule Toddler Time until we know the guidelines for shared spaces with the daycare- especially the usage of the muscle room. Rachel is not going to be running a Toddler Time at the Palmyra Community Center this year, so Cim would like to get a plan in place as soon as possible.

Next meeting: October 14 at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hunt

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

8/5/2025

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

In Support: Patti Dlugosh & Linda Pulcini

Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle *God's quiet gifts..... when moments reach the heart*

- **Old Business:**

1. Approval of June month's minutes *corrections?* *Motion: Sandy M. Second: Sandy B.*
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status– Sandy M. –

Jul-25	Deacons Checking Account
Initial balance	\$1,372.00
Additions	\$ 60.75
Deductions	\$ 164.38
Ending balance	\$1,268.37

- a. Balances

3. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards - cards from M.B. and D./B. D

4. Next Communion – on Sunday, August 10th

- a. Verify that enough Pita, loaf and juice WOOPS! for this month? ~quick run to store on Sunday
- b. Who can assist in set-up– in Aug 10th? Volunteers identified
- c. Fellowship Hall communion serving- an additional elder takes element trays to be served – done for 2 months only
5. Review of Prayer List and adjust accordingly of needs
6. Prayers for those in need and beyond
7. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts - visits with special meaningful moments of faith

2025

Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	15	24	69	49	1/12/25
February	5	18	56	39	2/9/25
March	16	16	99	49	3/9/25
April	22	15	57	73	4/20/25
May	11	19	50	57	5/11/25
June			24	49	6/8/25
July	18	36	46	46	7/13/25
Year to Date	103	143	458	410	

18 Lilys delivered

8. Special Needs Mailings –

- a. Primary and *rotating list managed by RK and SB*
- b. *VBS thank you cards to leaders over 24 sent out and signed by deacons, session and Reformed church representative*

Bible Verse: **Isaiah 58:11** Where God guides, He Provides

- **New Business:**

- Spoke of F.L. being in Hospice

Meeting closed with prayer

*****Next meeting***** Need to select different time ***** Thursday 9/4/2025 @9:30**

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

The stated meeting of 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.

7 Present: Courtney Marr, Philip Opdycke, Randy Kennard, Irene Fadden, Roxanne Dobson, Emily Hunt (Zoom), Janet Manktelow

1 Excused: Alicia Lynch

0 Absent

Melissa Perry from Little Froggies Daycare came to give us an update on their progress. The state gave approval to start hiring. They had 2 interviews. The classrooms will have their final inspection on August 18th. It will be necessary for the basement to be tested for radon. LED lights have been installed on the whole second floor. They are required to have a landline. September 3 is the date they hope to open. It will depend on the state completing the paperwork for the license in time. The lease will be signed by Janet Manktelow, Clerk of Session, and Melissa and Terri, owners of the daycare. We were given a check for \$1,000 as a security deposit.

- Motion made by Roxanne dobson seconded and carried to approve the agenda.
Emily Hunt shared a devotion with us.

Clerk's Report

- Motion made by PHIL Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the August session meeting.

Business of the Church

VBS Report- They had an average of 30-35 kids every day. They served at least 75 each day for lunch. The program was a big success.

Nursery Care Update –CE has put together a proposed Sunday Child Care job listing. They would like everyone's feedback. If it looks good to everyone, they will get it posted on the church website and Facebook.

Church website update needs to be updated and simplified. We will work with CommunityScape.life to get this done.

Farmers Market - Knucklehead Farms is doing a great job offering a farmers' market in the church yard on Sunday mornings. They are pleased with how it is going and so are we.

HoDong is thinking of offering a class for anyone who is interested in joining the church.

Ministry Team Reports

Worship Ministry Team – meeting next week.

Fellowship Ministry Team – They will hold a progressive dinner on Sept. 20th. They are planning a euchre tournament on Nov. 1st. Admission will be a box of cereal.

Deacons Ministry Team – They will serve communion to anyone who has chosen to watch the worship service in the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall during the hot weather.

Mission Ministry Team- They have given \$290 to Family Promise from the pie sales at the farmers market.

Property Ministry Team-

- Motion made by Property Ministry team and passed to allow the Pal-Mac Senior Recital to be held in our sanctuary on May 7, 2026.

- Motion made by Property Ministry Team and passed to allow the Seneca Waterways Council of

Scout Masters use of the parlors monthly on a Thursday night from 6-8:30PM. These meetings

will be held from September – April.

Presbytery- They are still working on the possibility of joining Presbyteries together.

Next meeting- September 9, 2025

Devotions -Randy Kennard

- Motion made by Phil Opdycke seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 9:00PM.

Janet Manktelow

Clerk

Our Prayer Concerns (updated September 17, 2025)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Susan A. Luechauer (requested by the Deacons)

Family & Friends of Carol Mattox (requested by Joan & Lloyd Durfey)

Family & Friends of Carol Utter (requested by Sue Bradshaw and Joan & Lloyd Durfey)

Family & Friends of Frank Lawrence (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, Scott Bush, Joan Durfey, Tricia Owen, Phil Opdycke, Wilma Redman, Keyna Sloan

Congregation members needed continued prayers:

Pam Gnagy, Cim McFarlane, Nancy Roets, Jan Semans

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton, David Squier

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

Clare Boesel, Sarah Carone, Ted & Nancy Elsenheimer, Mark Fiegl, Laura Gleeson, Joan Griswold, Don Hagen, Janet Haigh, Russell Harris, Sarah Hovermale, Jason Krennek, Jerry Locey, Laurie Loomis, Iris McConnell, Megan Melville, Mai (Gunkler) Nguyen, Sharyl Patton, Kate Pfaff, Patty Rogers, Dan Schrader, Jack Sweeney, Joann Treviso, Jean Walton, Dmitry Wieber, Vicki Wilkins, Donna Wirth, Ruth Yeo

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, hunger, and homelessness; 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.



OCTOBER 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	Sept. 29 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	Sept. 30 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	Oct. 1 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	2 Office Closed 9:30 am Mission/ Social Concerns 11 am Bible Study 6-8:30 pm FH Seneca Waterways Council	3 Office Closed	4
5 World Communion & Cereal Sunday 9 am First day of Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service Sunday School Teacher Commissioning	6	7 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 3 pm Fellowship 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	8 8:30 am to Noon Toddler Time 7 pm FH Boy Scouts	9 11 am Bible Study	10	11 10 am FH Faith Paint
12 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service	13 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	14 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	15 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	16 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale No Bible Study	17 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale	18 9 am to 11 am Rummage Sale 11 am to 2 pm Tear Down
19 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am special service for cancer patients	20	21 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	22 8:30 am to Noon Toddler Time 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	23 11 am Bible Study	24	25 Trick or Treat on Main Street
26 Western Horizons Sunday 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service	27	28 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	29	30 11 am Bible Study 3:45 pm FH Pasta Dinner Varsity Cross Country Team	31 Halloween	



NOVEMBER 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
						1 All Saint's Day Euchre Tournament
2 Daylight saving time ends 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service	3	4 Election Day 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 3 pm Fellowship 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	5	6 9:30 am Mission/ Social Concerns 11 am Bible Study 6-8:30 pm FH Seneca Waterways Council	7	8
9 Communion & Cereal Sunday 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service	10	11 Veteran's Day 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	12 8:30 am to Noon Toddler Time 7 pm FH Boy Scouts	13 11 am Bible Study	14	15
16 23 rd Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service Pie Sunday	17	18 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	19 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	20 11 am Bible Study	21	22
23 Christ the King Sunday 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service Hanging of the Greens	24 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	25 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	26 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm 8:30 am to Noon Toddler Time	27 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed No Bible Study	28 Office Closed	29
30 1 st Sunday of Advent No Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service Potluck Luncheon	31					