



WESTERN SPIRE

DECEMBER 2023

"Who is your hero?" We often ask this question to each other, especially to young children. Not many people ask me this question as I grow older but sometimes, I wish they did. What is the purpose of this question? I guess the answer reveals a lot about someone's values and how he/she would want to orient his/her whole life. As we all know well, a normal answer could be anyone from history or among celebrities, whose lives we know only indirectly through books or news articles. I am curious and want to know why if a kid states a name from his/her family because the answer is more likely to be genuine.

How and why are we inspired and affected by our heroes? By their accomplishments? By their determination, gallantry, or sacrifice? However, if we tweak the question a little bit, the answers might be very different or more genuine. "How did you find your hero helpful in your darkest or most desperate times?" "When you needed a hero most in your life, how did your hero help you get through it?" I don't think we figure out our heroes correctly unless we can answer the latter questions.

Advent is a strange season in that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, not just because he became the Christ (in Greek) and the Messiah (in Hebrew) later, but because the Son of God came to earth as an infant in the incarnation. We celebrate a newborn baby that was born 2000 years ago in a small town called Bethlehem in Judea, which is now a part of Palestine. The Advent themes, which are hope, peace, joy, and love, are based on God incarnate and they cannot be rightly understood unless we stare at the baby's face so intently. These themes are not just concepts but mysteries beyond words. These are the feelings that bring tears to grandparents when they see their newborn grandchild. The experience that elicits awe and wonder comes to us by baby Jesus, and all of sudden, those Advent themes like hope, peace, joy and love are understood and agreed as we are enchanted with the mystery of God.

Baby Jesus is our true hero and a great mystery because the Son of God took the meekest and the most powerless form of humanity to be with us in our lowest place. He is with us when we need our hero most. This mystery that comes with awe makes us think of grace, unearned and undeserved favor of God toward us, thus making us humble. It is a mystery because it is "an experience, not an abstraction" as Flannery O'Connor illustrated. This baby Jesus invites us to stare at him so intently that we may experience his presence with humility, instead of abstracting it, repeating the pattern, and recognizing it only through a religious box.

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent be with you all!

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Hodong Hwang

**Youth Group Night Out
at the
Winter Festival of Lights**

**Saturday, December 16th, 2023
5:15pm at the Log Cabin Restaurant
Open to youth & young adults
grades 5th- college
Space is limited
RVSP to Cim to reserve your spot**

**Pizza and hot cocoa at the
church afterwards**



PLEASE NOTE THAT ON CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24TH, THERE WILL BE TWO SERVICES.

**There will be a 10 am service and
a 9 pm candlelight communion service.**

A Message from the CE Team:



Confirmation class will be starting this winter for four young people. We are looking for interested mentors. If you are interested, please contact Emily Hunt.

We really appreciate your consideration.

**Need a Christmas gift for the
Master Chef on your list?**



WPC Women's Association RADA cutlery sale on December 10th at coffee hour

The holidays are quickly approaching. Is your kitchen ready with all your cutlery needs? Also available are baking pans, soup and sauce mixes, dip mixes and gift sets. Catalogs will be available on the table outside the office. Please return them after you place your order with Elaine Hassler @ 315-597-5211. Thank you for your support of the women's association.

2023 Reverse Advent Calendar for the Food Pantry

Instead of getting something every day of Advent, give to others.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Dec. 1 laundry soap and dryer sheets	2 handwashing Soap
3 dish detergent	4 diapers or sanitary products	5 toilet paper	6 toilet bowl cleaner	7 box of tissues	8 bottle of spray with bleach	9 deodorant
10 box of tissues	11 handwashing soap	12 laundry soap and dryer sheets	13 tube of toothpaste & a brand new toothbrush	14 dish detergent	15 diapers or sanitary products	16 roll of toilet paper
17 deodorant	18 dish detergent	19 tube of toothpaste & a brand new toothbrush	20 toilet paper	21 laundry soap and dryer sheets	22 bottle of spray with bleach	23 toilet bowl cleaner
24 dish detergent	25 Christmas Day					

Fill the Advent bags with gifts as suggested on the calendar, or with what you have to share.

Paper products, soaps, and cleaning supplies are always needed by those
who come to the food pantry.

Please bring your bags each week and place the gifts in the large boxes under the tree.





Donations

Family Promise is located at 3 Holley Street in Lyons, N.Y. 14489. We will accept donations for delivery only. You may contact our Donations Coordinator at achurch@fpwayneny.org.

Donations will be accepted on ***Mondays and Thursdays between the hours of 9 AM and Noon*** or by scheduling an appointment.

5 Star Start

These are items provided to guests who are moving into their own apartment.

All items should be new or gently used.

- Mattresses up to Queen size (No box springs please) *New pillows
- Living Room Furniture: Loveseats and Chairs only
- Kitchen table and chairs, matching dishes, pots and pans, and silverware
- Bathroom shower curtain, towel sets, bathmat, or area rug
- FPWC does not accept food donations currently.

Day Resource Center/Apartment Program

The following items need to be new.

- Liquid laundry soap and dryer sheets
- Shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- Tall kitchen garbage bags, paper towels and napkins
- Floor cleaner, disinfectant wipes, pledge, and toilet bowl cleaner
- Handmade items like quilts and blankets are always accepted. New or gently used

Welcome Bag

New items only

Each family member will receive a welcome bag on the day they enter the program. The following items will help make up a welcome bag.

- A duffel bag for adults, children's backpacks, playing cards, coloring books, crossword puzzles, books, novelty items

Gift Cards

Please provide gift cards in \$10 - \$20 denominations. We accept any gift cards that can be used in Wayne County.

- Preferences in gift cards include gas cards (Kwik Fill), Wegmans, Wal-Mart and Aldi's

******Donations may be used at the discretion of Family Promise of Wayne County.******

ThankYou so much for your donations to FPWC!

Weekend Wellness

Each week 100 school-aged children take home extra food for the weekend. It is easy to fix food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Twice a month, volunteers get together on a Tuesday night at the food pantry.

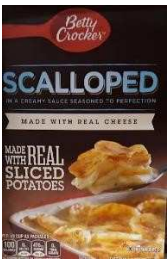
We pack 200 bags to cover 2 weekends.

WPC has signed up for January 2 at 7 PM to pack bags. Come join us as we feed children who might be lacking food on the weekend.

To help defray the cost to the program the mission team is asking that individual mac and cheese cups and granola bars be brought to church. Items will be taken to the food pantry to use to fill the bags.

Food Cupboard

Winter is here, but we will still fill the food cupboard on the church side yard. But we can't put out food with liquid, it will freeze and expand, and cause quite a mess. Therefore, we need to put in cereal, granola, dried packaged food. I took a few pictures of Tops grocery shelves.



I think these products will withstand freezing temperatures.

I know canned items like soup, vegetables, and fruit do freeze.

Want to find out more? Ask one of the mission team: Edie Chapman, Sally Chase, Ruth Dantz, Irene Fadden, Rena Haigh, Cassie Hughes, and Jan Taylor

What happened at Women's Circle this month?

Words... we speak them

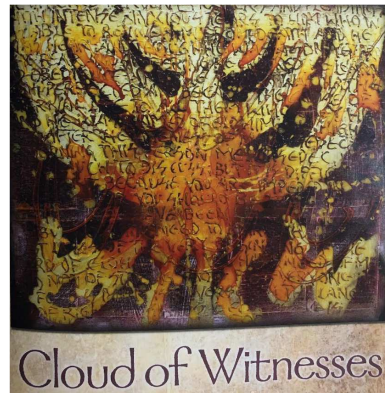
...we write them

... we hear them

...we read them

... we think them

...And yes, we worship them



In the Women's circle, we wrapped our minds around the essence of why the word has power as found in the Bible. In lesson#3 of "Cloud of Witnesses" the focus is on both how God's intentions are described in the OT and how it's communicated in the NT within the reference of the Word.

We started by identifying the many ways that the Word is communicated, how it takes shape in our space as well as through Biblical times. God's words are both living and active. The Word is a gift for us to open and actively wear, to make our own. Through use in the Bible, it is framed by saying it's the voice of God, "God said". The word is spoken by prophets and set to law by the word of God- 'It is written'. The Word is brought forth from messenger angels. The Word is conveyed through imagery of stained-glass windows long before common man could read or write. Word is made flesh through the gift of Jesus. Word is further outreaching by parables. The power of the word is conveyed as an act of a touch. We reap the power of the Word when it connects with our spirit, our inner heart and soul. We are humbled to our deepest core when the word carries us in moments of both hope and pain. God's word can break through barriers. Those barriers are broken only if we let the word in. Wow, that can be a scary step, a vulnerable step, but yet a most enriching step to our soul when we allow God in.

We talked of the scriptures that touches us the most: *Be still and know thy God..; Let your heart not be troubled...; Go and do likewise...; "What is impossible with man is possible with God." ...; The word of God is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path...; "My word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it"*. To mention a few.



Then, we spoke of hymns that touch us with the strength of the God's word: 'Be Though my Vision', 'Here I am Lord', Precious Lord take my hand', 'I dance in the Morning', 'Be Still', and 'Living water fill my thirsty soul'. The hymns flowed from us as we relate to the

melodies and how they embrace our spirit with the word. There was a rich safety and sharing the songs of love, strength, and discipleship.

Looking at ourselves, there are many times we need to hear the word of God, to know we have strength and guidance beyond ourselves. We need comfort when lonely. We need the wisdom and patience shaped in special words to talk and guide our children/grandchildren. Where is God when grieving? We hope for God's strength when struggling with an addiction or harmful habit. With body pain and illness, the solace of God's word can carry us beyond the agony. So many times, we find that making decisions, so many decisions, need the guidance and wisdom of God to know what is right. Perhaps these low moments are when we need God's word as extended through our neighbor, family, or friend. Someone who is God's angel. Perhaps we become the active word of God for others. Perhaps that is the power of goodness. The living word.

Each of us that gather at this safe space bring varied voices, differing points of view, we hear the struggles and hear the joys. We speak of intimacies. We each are at a different place in our faith journey and learn and grow from each other. The purpose of God's word is to reveal the life afforded to us in Jesus Christ. **The word of God is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path. [Psalm 119:105] There is always room at this table for you.**



**Wherever you go, whatever you do,
whatever word you speak, season them
with a dash of faith – because God loves
the way you flavor the world.**





Mark Your Calendar:

Womens Christmas Luncheon at Warfields

December 20th

Car pooling from church at **11:15am** or meet at the restaurant at **noon**

- PLEASE, let Jan Taylor or Randy Kennard know you are joining us and if you need a ride or plan to carpool.
- *Donations will be collected for the **Good Neighbor Fund**.*

An additional donation from the circle funds will be given to **Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes**. This program meets the most pressing needs for victims of violence. They have served 1289 survivors and their families and answered more than 1500 hotline calls and provided 3000 save bed nights. This is more than double from 2019.

Thank you from:

TODDLER TIME



Thank you for all the love and donations to Toddler Time!

Quote from Erma Bombeck:

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left. And could say, "I used everything you gave me, God."



Busy Bags for Kids During Worship

You may have noticed a big basket in the hallway, near the door to the sanctuary. The basket is filled with brightly colored bags full of activities for kids. The note in the basket reads: "Busy Bags are for busy little hands. Please use them during worship and return when finished. Occasionally there may be a trinket to keep! Enjoy."

If you think that your child would like to use a Busy Bag during worship, please help yourself. Or feel free to offer a Busy Bag to a family if they seem interested.

Many thanks to Joan Durfey for putting all of this together!

Sunday December 17, 2023 – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY

“Give Yourself to Love: A Conversation in Song”
A Concert Benefitting the GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND
Featuring Val Fowler, guitarist/vocalist
Laurie Hunt, bass / Laurence Sugarman, banjo
December 17, 2023

Val has played, sung, and performed for 55 years. He especially enjoys offering benefit concerts. Prior to the pandemic, his concerts supported the mission of numerous churches in Western New York, food ministries, hospices, mission trips, and the Clergy Emergency Fund of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

A self-styled “song finder,” he notes that “if people like me didn’t find the songs, learn them, arrange them, and sing them . . . people would never hear them.” Val is a member and past President of the Golden Link Folk Singing Society of Rochester. Val is a retired Presbyterian minister and lives in Farmington, NY.

Joining Val will be Laurie Hunt and Laurence Sugarman. Laurie plays stand-up bass (as well as hammered dulcimer and mountain dulcimer). Laurence is a very skilled banjo player and provides wonderful instrumental compositions and arrangements for songs. His style is lyrical, reflective, and inspirational. The concert will be presented as a “conversation” between Val, Laurie, and Laurence, with music as the medium. The theme is built around the Christmas season theme of *love*.

The concert is free, and refreshments will be provided. Generosity will be invited in support of the Good Neighbor Fund.

“Give Yourself to Love A Conversation in Song”

BENEFITING the GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

Sunday December 17

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra
(Refreshments provided after the music.)



Val Fowler, singer & guitarist
and

Laurence Sugarman, banjo

Laurie Hunt, bass

The concert is free; generosity will be encouraged for
THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND.

January 7, 2024
10am Worship
Service



A Message from Session

The following message was in the devotional publication “These Days”, that our deacons provide to us. It seems to be an appropriate message during this time of year when we are looking for members of our congregation to serve on church committees.

Luke 19:29-35a

When he had come near Bethpage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They said, “The Lord needs it.” Then they brought it to Jesus.

In this reading from Luke, the two disciples do not ask Jesus any questions as to why he needs the colt. They simply go into the city and find the colt. When they are questioned, they reply, “The Lord needs it.”

At a celebration of mission held in the church where I grew up, a famous missionary doctor was asked why he served in an out-of-the-way village when he could have had a prominent position in a university hospital. He replied that the Lord had need of him there.

I invite you to ask yourself: Where does God have need of me? What gifts has God given me for the work I am being called to do? Will I go obediently?

God calls us into new ministries and gives us the gifts to be of service.

(by June Begany)

If you are thinking about joining a committee, or would like more information, please see any of the following people:

Randy Kennard/Deacons**, Emily Hunt/Christian Ed**, Norm Underwood/Fellowship**, Irene Fadden/Mission, Alicia Lynch/Finance, James McFarlane/Property, Sue Leonard/Worship.

(**Deacons, Christian Ed and Fellowship especially need additional members.)

God calls us into new ministries and gives us the gifts to be of service. Are you being called?



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 3	Linda Williamson
December 8	Kelly Babcock
December 11	Fran Storm
December 15	Sandy McMenamin
December 17	Peter Fadden



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 9	Robert & Susan Pringle
December 27	Joshua & Emily Hunt
December 29	Stephen & Randy Kennard

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 November include:

WPC Christian Education Team

Minutes November 7, 2023

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

Upcoming Events:

November 19- Christmas Card Production

November 26- No Sunday School Thanksgiving weekend

December 24- No Sunday School Christmas Eve

December 31- No Sunday School New Year's Eve

January 7- Sunday School Led Epiphany Service

January 21- Valentine Card Production

February 11- Camp and Retreat Sunday

February 18- No Sunday School February Break

February 20-22- East Avon mini-VBS

March 3- Easter Card Production

March 23- Easter Bunny Breakfast

March 31- No Sunday School- Easter Sunday

May 19- Sunday School Led Service/Last Day of Sunday School

July 29-August 2- VBS

Continuing and New Business

Sunday School News- We have had 7-10 children each week. Avery and Nella are acting as teacher's assistants for the preschoolers. Everything is going well.

Confirmation- Emily sent a parent survey to get availability. We have had one person contact us about being a mentor. We will run an ad in the December Spire and start to ask others to serve as a mentor.

Thanksgiving- We have been asked by the worship team to help make decorations for the sanctuary for Thanksgiving. Sunday School children will be making leaves on Sunday.

Sexual Harassment Certificates- Emily and Kelly have submitted theirs from school. Jody and Cim will complete theirs when their year is up.

Background Check- we are all set with Logan's background check for a Sunday School substitute teacher. Thank you to Kathy and Janet for helping us take care of that.

Festival of Lights-we will use Jr. High Fellowship funds for this outing. The dates have come out; wagons will be running November 17-December 31. Jody will call to see if we can reserve a wagon for December 16.

Toddler Time- Cim reported she had 11 children on 11/7 at WPC's Toddler Time. The oldest child was 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. She reported parents and caregivers are making good connections. WPC will also host on 11/21 and 11/28.

Cim and Lisa are hoping to have the Family Story time in late January or February. Possible themes include snow, Valentine's Day, or police officers. They are meeting next week to plan.

Gunkler Fund- Session approved the mission statement. February 11 we are hoping to have Camp Sunday. Cim would like to do a special offering that day for the Gunkler fund. Emily will take this proposal to Session in November.

January 7 Epiphany Service- Cim shared the theme of this year's service- Lights of Christmas Hope Shines Bright

Camp Whitman Board Update- Cim shared that the search committee for the new Camp Whitman director has two candidates for interviews. They will do a camp walking tour and then an interview at the Geneva Presbyterian Church. Their goal is December 1 for announcing the candidate.

VBS-Cim reported we will use Cave Quest as our VBS theme this year. We picked the dates of July 29-August 2 for 2024 VBS. Emily will fill out all property use forms.

Pastor Hodong's Adult Education Ideas- We discussed some possible theme ideas. We decided to devote our February meeting to this topic. Emily will make some calls for a possible Wellness theme idea.

Next meeting: December 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hunt

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

November 7th, 2023

Present: Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Patti Dlugosh

In Support: Linda Pulcini & Sara Bush

Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle

1. **Approval of last month's minutes** *with below corrections Motion: Sandy Second: Patty*
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status— Sandy M. —

Nov-23	Deacons Checking Account	WPC Budget Line item
Initial balance	\$972.55	\$500.00
Additions	66.00+54.00	
Deductions		
Ending balance	\$1,092.55	\$500.00

- a. Balances
- b. Sara and Randy need to submit receipts for December.
- c. Approved the ordering of small gifts to be inserted in CE created cards. *(Told Cim 25-26 needed)*
3. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards – one letter received from F/B.L.
4. Communion – on 11/12 morning only - all of team to assist in preparations.
 - a. No communion for installation on Sunday afternoon
5. Update of prayer concerns: adds, Removals & status
6. Group Prayer – Lord, hear our prayers.
7. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts - visits with special meaningful moments of faith.

2023 As of April, Counts taken from remaining elements during serving					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	16	27	63	38	1/15/2023
February	7	19	68	42	19-Feb-23
March	6	20	64	39	12-Mar-23
April	6	11	56	57	9-Apr-23
May	13	10	41	48	15-May-23
June	9	10	55	45	11-Jun-23
July	7	14	69	35	9-Jul-23
August	10	19	74	64	13-Aug-23
September	12	14	68	66	10-Sep-23
October	12	10	57	60	1-Oct-23
November	12	13	52	60	11/12/2023
Year to Date	98	154	615	554	

* commuions are now served with passing out the elements in a cup of juice and another for bread
 *As of August 13th, bread is served in platters
 * Served pita bread - more representative of the bread of Jesus' time

8. Special Care Mailings Current Roster set at 24 recipients.
9. Monthly Notes – include **Psalm 93:4 - "Mightier than the waves of the sea is his love for you"**

Old Business:

1. Reports of Prayer List contacts
2. Session – request for Deacons team members – action to announce need for Deacon team members and assistance in floral delivery at Christmas and Easter. – Carol Sloan offered to assist with delivery visits

Meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting Tuesday 12/5/2023 @ 10:00am

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

Fellowship Meeting

November 5, 2023

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

Recap of Western Horizons Potluck.

Next year, introduce new 50+ members. This should be done during the service and again at the potluck.

HoDong's installation: Donations are being solicited and coordinated by Sue L. Terry and Ray will set up on Friday at 1:00 pm. Other help will be needed in prep/setting out the food and clean up.

Hanging of the Greens: 11/26 after church service. Fellowship will be handling coffee hour. Roxie will get 50+ donut holes, Ray will do his world-famous cream puffs. Norm will get cider. As usual coffee and tea will be made.

Roxanne has asked Nella to get word to Sunday School children to help decorate the tree.

Ray and Terry will bring up the decorations beforehand.

Sweets and Treats will be February 11th.

Next meeting will be January 7th in the parlor after church.

Norm Underwood

Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team Minutes November 8, 2023

Present: _p_ Cassie Hughes _ex__ Edie Chapman _p__ Irene Fadden _p__ Jan Taylor
__Johnnie Fontaine _p_ Rena Haigh _p_ Ruth Dantz _ex_ Sally Chase _p_ Pastor Hodong

Qholaqhoe Mountain Connection – Irene will contact Lynn Minderman to get a date for her to come and share the QMC story with the congregation.

Card Ministry – work together to make cards that can be sent. Maybe this is an event that the Fellowship Team might organize. Janet Manktelow would be a good person to help with this event as she scrapbooks and Hodong has a previous congregant who would come to share her skills with us. Irene will contact Janet and Norm about the possibility of doing this project. Cards could be purchased (not as a fundraiser but we would need to cover the cost of materials.)

Family Promise –Nov 20th (Irene) Ruth and Irene will deliver the meal and eat with the families. At our December meeting we will determine how much is left of the funds and the remaining money will be sent to Family Promise for the purchase of an apartment building.

Food Pantry update – Ruth reports that the \$30,000 grant from the LDS church has been completely used. 20 households are a normal night. Ruth will talk with Dave Nagel about Grace House sending 5 Newark residents to the pantry one Monday night. Newark’s pantry is open 5 days a week and it is the policy that the pantry gives food to all who come. Ruth is concerned that if others come from Newark, food supplies will not be available for those in Pal-Mac-Farmington.

Food Cupboard “Take what you need, Give what you can.” - The cupboard is filled with food several times each week by members of our congregation. Always being used. Vegetables – okra, cabbage, dried beans are not taken. Food over 1 year expired should be removed.

Month	Food Cupboard	Food Pantry
November	Jan and Dave	Jan and Dave
December	Irene and Peter	Irene and Peter

Budget Request for 2024 – Mission asked for the \$25,000 we received in 2023. \$21,285 is the amount that we have in our budget to keep giving as we have this past year except for a final donation of money to Family Promise.

Good Neighbor Fund Update –

Beginning balance \$2313.40 + \$340 donated - \$2501.08 given for rents for 9 adults and 12 children. Ending Balance - \$152.32. The GNF is closed. The remaining \$1,000 in Mission money will be sent to the GNF.

Concert featuring Pastor Val to benefit the GNF on December 17th. Save the date notice to be sent out. Churches in Clergy Council will be invited. No tickets, freewill donation. Mission Team will provide refreshments after the concert. More details to follow.

Weekend Wellness update – Packing bags twice a month, 100 each week, WPC is packing 11/21 at 7 PM at the Food Pantry

\$7,059.32 remains in the Weekend Wellness account with Wilma. She will be asked to send a check for the total amount to Elaine Hassler, treasurer of the food pantry, to cover the costs of Weekend Wellness.

Reverse Advent Calendar – Advent is December 2nd to December 24th. Calendars will be available to the congregation. Items purchased are cleaning goods and personal health items that are not covered by SNAP food benefits. Ruth reported that the big donation we gave last year was gone by the end of January. Information will go out in the December Spire.

ARC Home – Rena will get \$20 gift cards for the residents.

Lenten calendar – for Presbytery Hunger Fund (2 cents a meal) – Lent begins Feb. 14th and ends March 30.

One Great Hour of Sharing – We do not have a total of the amount received but Irene will find the amount and report it at the December meeting. Thank you, Cassie.

Clint McCoy Feeding Center in Malawi - \$500 was sent to the project through the church in Canton. Thank you note received.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting: December 6th at 10 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Fadden

Property Ministry Team - Minutes

Present: James McFarlane, Gary LaBerge, Phil Opdycke, Steve Kennard

Excused: Don Dantz

Emcor is still working on the boiler installation. Hope to have installation completed within the next week. Had some delays due to changes in plumbing required to make planned updates to existing plumbing. The last item is running exhaust up through the existing chimney.

All the lights in the muscle room, including the Scout closet, have been updated to LED lights.

No new options at this time for a contractor to clean the church. (Note: Between the meeting and writing of these notes, have found a possible contact for a cleaning service operating out of Macedon. Will make contact and advise on results.)

Will be working on cleaning of old kitchen in basement since the Mission Team removed most of the food from the room and the new Toddler Program is scheduled to start next week.

The annual winterizing of the church has already started. Still need to remove and store window A/C units, close vents above Sanctuary, and finish closing storm windows.

Based on what Gary found when working on the chimney, he believes we should hire a contractor to assess and repair our lightning protection system.

The Scout Troop will be camping this weekend and would like to use the muscle room to set up their tents so they can dry. Since the muscle room will be in use Tuesday morning, the troop will wait till the end of their normal meeting on Tuesday evening to set up the tents.

Also, last month, the Troop had asked to use Fellowship Hall on the 23rd or 24th of October for a Court of Honor. With the Rummage Sale already scheduled, it did not appear to be an option. **When Fellowship Hall is not available for a Court of Honor Ceremony, would Session approve the use of the Sanctuary?**

Next Meeting: Currently scheduled for 11/15/23 at 6:30 PM

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

7 Present: James McFarlane, Norman Underwood, Alicia Lynch, Susan Leonard, Randy Kennard, Emily Hunt, Janet Manktelow

2 Present via Zoom: Irene Fadden, Philip Opdycke

0 Absent

A quorum was present.

Devotions shared by Irene Fadden.

- Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded and carried to approve the agenda.

Clerks Report

Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the September session meeting.

Financial Secretary's Report

	Current	<u>September 2023</u>		YTD%of
	<u>Month</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	
		<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Receipts	\$27,867	\$145,649	\$147,077	99.03%
Expenditures	\$21,684	\$ 82,504	\$140,046	58.91%
Total Receipts/Expenditures	\$ 6,183	\$ 63,145	\$ 7,031	

Business of the Church

Cim McFarlane and Lisa Perry would like to hold a Story Hour in the Muscle Room once a month. This will be for families and will include a story, crafts, and snacks.

Motion made by Christian Education Ministry Team to approve Cimberly MacFarlane and Lisa Perry offering a Story Hour once a month in the Muscle Room. Motion passed.

CE also presented the following proposal from the Gunkler family.

Robert D. Gunkler Campership Fund

Robert “Bob” Gunkler was a member of Western Presbyterian Church since April 1, 1956, when he joined the church after his confirmation. After he passed in 2009, monies were donated in his name to establish the Robert D. Gunkler Campership Fund. Bob believed every child or youth should have the ability to attend camp.

The purpose of this Campership is to assist the children and youth to participate in events that will help them grow in faith and fellowship.

The plan is to provide a financial scholarship to assist children and youth who participate in activities at WPC and apply for the scholarship to attend events like Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Christian Youth Fellowship events, or Camp Whitman.

Applications to be available starting in 2024.

The family of Bob Gunkler hopes that recipients of a Campership will share what their experience from “camp” meant to them after they return.

The amount to be distributed to each applicant, each year, is dependent on the number of applicants and available funds in the account. The total distributions from the fund in any given year shall not exceed 50% of the start of year fund balance.

In order to replenish the fund over time, there should be some fundraising options available during the year. It is suggested that possible fundraising options are: proceeds from the annual WPC Bunny Breakfast, special offering to be taken during Camp Whitman Sunday service (the next Presbyterian Camp & Retreat worship service is scheduled for February 11, 2024), and several Spire articles per year to remind members the fund exists.

- Motion made by Christian Ed Ministry Team to approve the above proposal from the Gunkler Family. Motion passed.

- Motion made by Christian Ed. Ministry Team to approve holding additional Toddler Times on 11/7 and 11/21. Motion passed.

The Property Team asked for approval of the use of the sanctuary for the Boy Scouts to hold their Award Ceremonies.

- Motion made by Property Ministry Team to allow the Boy Scouts to use the sanctuary for award ceremonies. Motion passed.

We are working on filling openings on session. Randy Kennard has agreed to serve another 3-year term. We are still looking for someone to chair the Fellowship Ministry Team.

- Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded and carried to allow the Women's Association to sell RADA at the coffee hour on Dec. 10, 2023.

Executive Meeting

- Motion made by Susan Leonard seconded and carried to approve giving our office assistant, Kathy Barr, 32 sick hours per year. The hours cannot be carried over to the next year if not used.

Team Reports

Worship Ministry Team -did not hold a meeting, will be deciding on times for the Christmas Eve service.

Fellowship Ministry Team -Western Horizon's Sunday will be Oct. 27th with a potluck following the worship service. This is when we will celebrate all our 50+year members. The Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday Nov. 26th.

Deacons Fellowship Team -Sarah will take over sending all the cards for the Deacons.

Mission Ministry Team -Weekend Wellness Program packs 400 bags. They will be offering a Reverse Advent Calendar to the congregation again this year.

Finance Ministry Team -Pledge Sunday will be Nov. 19th. They will host coffee on that Sunday.

C/E Ministry Team -there have been between 4 and 8 children at Sunday School each week. They handed out 400 trick or treat bags during Trick or Treat on Main St. Confirmation class is moving forward.

Property Ministry Team -may hire an outside contractor to work on lighting protection. Scouts will be setting up tents in the basement to allow them to dry out. Looking for more volunteers to start and stop recording services and events.

Angel Tree - this project has been delayed this year due to the school sending out info late so the names coming in are much later than normal.

Next meeting will be November 28th.

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 8:45 PM.

Janet Manktelow, Clerk

November 14, 2023 Worship Meeting

Present: HoDong, Carol, Alicia, Linda, Sharon, Sue, Courtney

Excused: Joan and MaryBeth

Open with Prayer



Advent Candle- shared past ways we have lit the candle (families, teams, individuals)).... Open it up to the congregation to see who wants to read and light the candle. Groups/families of 3 or more. They will email Sue.

Decorating for Christmas- we need to decorate early for the Palmyra Historical Society House tour- Sue to email to set up date and will talk to Gary about getting all the decorations out.

Sue will reach out to Randy to discuss her ideas for decorating for Advent.

Poinsettias- Sue will call Jack at the Settlers Post about poinsettias and if we can get a few before the house tour but also the price for each plant.

Carol will take care of poinsettia orders and money and Courtney will make a flier and promote on FB and will ask Kathy to email out to congregation.

Christmas Eve- HoDong would like a 10 am service and 9 pm with communion- 10 am service Alicia will make cake.

Sharon and Ray will put the sandwich board out and luminaries out on Christmas Eve.

News- Sue will be stepping down as chair of worship and Courtney will be taking over.

Round table- Carol would like to start looking into getting a choir director and bring it up to session for approval. She is hoping to get something together for Christmas.

Respectfully submitted by Courtney Marr

Our Prayer Concerns (updated November 22, 2023)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Carol Fowler (wife of Pastor Val Fowler-requested by the Deacons)

Family & Friends of Rick Skinkle (requested by Jody Pruitt)

Family & Friends of Louise Lawrence (requested by Frank & Bron Lawrence)

Family & Friends of Doug Serra (husband of Rev. Michelle Serra-requested by the Presbytery)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Adam Hill, Sarah Jagger, Joe Krebbeks, Josh Polle

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

All caregivers, All those affected by natural disasters, All those who have been affected by the Coronavirus, All those who have no one to pray for them, All victims of violence, hatred and hunger, Ellen Avery, Sarah Carone, Joyce Clark, Ed Cole, Tracy D'Arduini & Linda Pulcini, Jacquie DeBrine, Irene Fadden, Dean Guest, Jonathan Groff, Linda Hanna, Laurie Harvey, Sylvia Lyon, Julie Maragus, Angelo Mascioli, Deb Merla, Mary Greenlaw-Meyer, Joyce Oster, Gail Rapp, Judy Riese, David Sanford, Fran Storm, Rose Ann Wagner

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

Others for whom we continue to pray:

Wes Barager, Janet Hassler Costa, Gary Culver, Kathleen Dougherty, Joan Durfey, Janet Haigh, Marge Harloff, Russell Harris, Bobby & Eileen Haurand, Dave Jankowski, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Roger King, Gary Lashway, Frank Lawrence, Jessica Locey Otto, Tad Manske, Cim McFarlane, Patrick Miller, Karley Mott, Tracy Murphy, Dawn VerStraete Nieskes, Wilma Redman, Kathy Rynders, Doug Sloan, David Squier, Joan Verstringhe, Marguerite Vizzini

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton

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



DECEMBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2 4-8 pm Palmyra Historical Society Tour
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am worship service	4	5 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	6 10 am Mission/ Social Concerns	7	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service RADA cutlery sale	11	12 10 am-Noon Toddler Time 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	13 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	14	15	16 5:15 pm Log Cabin Festival of Lights
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am worship service 3 pm GNF Benefit Concert	18	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	20 Noon Women's Circle Holiday Luncheon Warfields 6:30 pm Property	21	22	23 9 am to 2 pm Pruitt Family Christmas
24 Christmas Eve No Sunday School 10 am worship service 9 pm candlelight & communion service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	27 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	28 Office Open 8:30 am to 2 pm	29 Office Closed	30
31 New Year's Eve No Sunday School 10 am worship service Pastor Val Fowler leading worship						



JANUARY 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	3 10 am Mission/ Social Concerns	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 Baptism of the Lord 9 am Sunday School 10 am children led Epiphany service Fellowship Team meeting after church	8	9 10 am- Noon Toddler Time 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	10 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	11	12	13
14 Communion & Cereal Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	15 Martin Luther King's Birthday	16 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	17 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	18	19	20
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	22	23 10 am-Noon Toddler Time 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	24	25	26	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	29	30 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	31			