



WESTERN SPIRE FEBRUARY 2024

As I grow older, there are moments when I feel like I am getting older. For more than 10 years since I came to the United States twenty years ago, one thing in my bucket list was to go to Times Square on New Year's Eve to watch the famous ball drop. But now it is out of the picture in my life because it feels better to start the New Year off clear-minded at home than feeling exhausted from Day 1 after hanging around with massive groups of people in Manhattan.

Am I getting less romantic and more materialistic to think like that? Am I dead inside without the pathos of the young, or am I simply owning my own rhythm of life refusing to be distracted by non-essential things? But I want to believe that we grow as a human and in faith by sending away the things we used to love and taking new things in our heart. Our life is an endless fight to shift our mindset to recenter our lives around what is most important and crucial to us. As a Buddhist monk said, "Sometimes walking away is a step forward."

However, how do we know that all the decisions of sending away and taking new things have been done correctly? Or how do we know even before we make any decision that we will become better and wiser through such a decision? John 21 tells us there is one question we should ask ourselves as the assessment tool before, during, and after our decision.

Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" Whether we spent our whole life as proud Christians or have a lack of excitement but always find our shortcomings first, our answer to this question reveals our center and direction. Regardless of the differences in our opinions about anything, the final question Jesus asks us is if we love him more than anything.

Jesus didn't ask this question to Peter right after his resurrection when he was still scared, confused, and disoriented. Jesus showed his wounds to the disciples and even let them touch them, but he didn't ask this question because they were not ready. Sadly, most of them left Jesus again to go back to fishing, their previous job before they followed Jesus. As Jesus came to Galilee to meet with them once again, John 21:14 says that it was the third time Jesus appeared to them after he was raised from the dead. This time, Jesus asked Peter if he loved him.

This was the question I received from the Presbytery meeting in Nashville to approve my ordination. This is the question that comes to my mind when I am afraid, confused, and doubtful. This question helps me think again, try again, and smile again because Jesus comes back to my center. I hope this is the question for you, as well, especially in the Lenten season that begins on February 14th.

Peace of Christ,
Rev. Hodong Hwang



FAMILY STORY TIME

Join us for fingerplays, songs, a craft, small snack & movement games at our beach themed story time.

GUEST READER:

Chris Oaks

Pal-Mac Varsity Girls Swim Coach,
Summer Swim Lesson Instructor &
High School Math Teacher

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

6:00pm-7:00pm

**Western Presbyterian Church
101 East Main Street, Palmyra**

Bring your own beach towel

Scout Sunday



February 4, 2024

**WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH CELEBRATES....**



**CAMP & RETREAT SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2024
DURING THE 10AM WORSHIP
SERVICE**

**A special offering will be taken for the
Robert D. Gunkler Campership Fund**



This month we are excited to participate in Camp & Retreat Sunday on February 11th. This day is a day to remember and share stories from the life changing experiences that happen at camp, whether that had been at a family camp, scout camps or church camps like Camp Whitman. On February 11th, we will be focusing on the amazing work Camp Whitman has done for the youth and adults with disabilities of the presbytery and beyond. As someone who grew up attending camp and now has achieved the childhood dream of working as a counselor, I have made many of my favorite memories at Camp Whitman. As a family, we believe that money should not

be an obstacle that holds youth back from participating in events that have a lasting impact like Camp Whitman. The family of Bob Gunkler would like to extend our desire to help the youth of our church experience events like Camp Whitman.

After he passed in 2009, monies were donated to the church in his name to establish the Robert D. Gunkler Campership Fund. Bob, aka Grandpa, believed every child and youth should have the ability to attend camp. The purpose of this Campership is to assist the children and youth of the church 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. There will be a special offering during the Camp & Retreat Sunday service to raise funds for the Robert D. Gunkler Campership Fund. We hope the stories shared about the camp experience will inspire you to help us in our endeavor to provide the youth with the same experiences I was so blessed to be able to participate in as a kid.

~Emily McFarlane, granddaughter of Bob & Janet Gunkler



Western Presbyterian Church is hosting:

TODDLER TIME

Tuesday morning

10:30am-12:00pm

Come for informal playtime & connect
with other parents/caregivers.

This is a stay & play group. Parents/caregivers are responsible for all their children for the entirety of the time & must be present with their children in the Muscle Room where the group is meeting.



FREE!!



Cloud of Witness – A study of Angels

Women's Bible and fellowship Circle

There were 11 of us who traveled the cold to attend the Circle meeting in person. There were 2 more attending on zoom. Together there was a great exchange of ideas and insight. In Hebrews there is reference that Jesus is above angels.



However, what really are angels? When are they seen? Can they be present today? What would God have the angels tell us? As messengers of God, they are described as being present since the creation of earth, before mankind.

We told of favorite Bible stories which included angels. We struggled to envision what an angel might look like and whether they would be male or female. The conclusion was that the messages of guidance and good news conveyed by angelic source could take on many forms. A white flying winged spirit is only one kind of angel. A nuzzle from a dog or a cuddle from a cat can be acts of an angelic nature. We also suggested that we could have angelic behaviors or have angelic encounters to touch lives in small and large ways. We laughed when evaluating whether an angel could marry or reproduce. Maybe that is going way too far!

The comfort of knowing that quiet voices, fleeting visions and words on the breath of a breeze can carry guidance for our Lord is powerful. "For I am with you..."

Perhaps one prayer to say before sleeping at night could be.....

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Bless the bed that I lie on.

4 corners to my bed,

4 angels 'round my head.

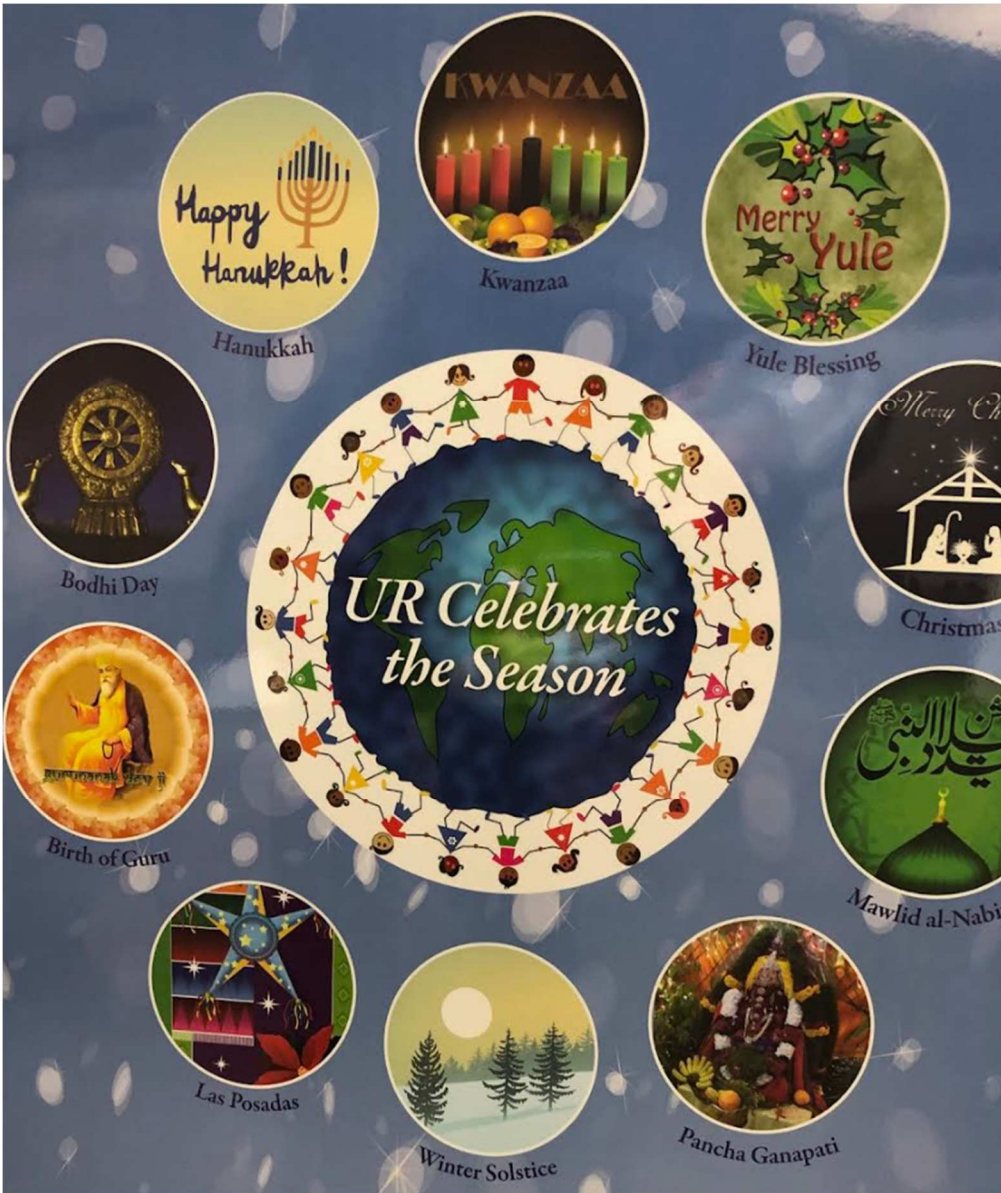
1 to watch and 1 to pray, and 2 to guide me through the day.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 1pm.

All are welcome.

May the themes of the season resonate in our hearts and souls.....

Where we are Christians, there are so many other faiths that recognize December. Here are just a few.....



****What is the season?** We are not just Christians in our world-community. Here are some December celebrations of faith around the world and close at hand: found in UR hospital.

****Bodhi Day**, Dec 8th- Buddha religion experiencing Enlightenment – decorate trees and have lights & candles

****Hanukkah**, eight-day Jewish festival in December. In 2023 12/7 to 12/15. It symbolized a rededication of the holy temple and represents how a single days' worth of oil lasted 8 days and it was a victory of the Maccabees over the larger Greek army

****Kwanzaa**, Annual celebration of African culture from Dec 26-Jan1st. Based on African harvest traditions -is not religious in nature, Unity/ Self-determination/ Collective work and Responsibility/ Cooperative economics/ Purpose/ Creativity/ & Faith

****Yule Blessing**, A way to acknowledge & celebrate the winter solstice – pagan though has blended into Christmas celebrations.

****Mawlid al-Nabi**, it is an observance of the day when the Islamic prophet Muhammad is reported to have been born.

****Pancha Ganapati**, Modern Hindu festival honoring the five-faced Lord of Categories, Maha Ganapati. Hindu Christmas, 5 days of gift giving 12-20 to

12-25. 5 realms of their life, wider circle of family-friends- associates- culture and religion.

****Winter Solstice**, Moment of transition from darkness to light, Dec 21st – Pagan origination. Darkest day – fewest daylight hours

****Las Posadas**, Spanish/Mex. Means the Inns, it commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Dec 16-24th. A child dressed as an angel leads the procession through the streets of the town with shepherds and Mary and Joseph -dressed children.

**** Birth of Guru**, Dec 29 – Indian of India, He's who molded the Sikh religion into its present shape. He became the Guru on Nov 24, 1675. This is his 356th birth anniversary.

SAVE THE DATES:

The Fellowship team has several dates and events scheduled for the coming year.

In February we will host Sweets and Treats dessert potluck on February 11th.

In March we plan to hold a Soup or Chili potluck on March 17th. Bring your favorite soup or chili. Should be interesting to see the varieties!

We are investigating the possibility of holding a movie or game night in April. Please let any team member know if you have a preference of a movie over game night.

We would like to hold a progressive dinner and are looking for 3 families who may like to host. The date will be based on everyone's schedule. Please contact any of the team members if interested in hosting. We may also need drivers for carpooling as the details are finalized.

Anyone is welcome to submit ideas for events or activities you'd like to see Fellowship Team coordinate.

We are looking forward to an exciting new year by communing with each other and God.

The Fellowship Team: Ray Marr, Sue Pringle, Terry and Val Gendron, Roxanne Dobson, Norm Underwood, and our newest recruit; Jan Taylor



The Palmyra-Macedon Food Pantry would like to thank everyone for their support of the Food Pantry through their giving to the Advent Calendar. Several hundred items, personal care and household products were supplied to the Pantry. Thanks Again!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 1	James Bush
February 8	Frank Koeberle
February 11	Patricia Dlugosh
February 13	Frank Lawrence
February 13	Daphne Hemmings
February 14	Sylvia Lyons
February 19	Gene Bassage
February 21	Martha Beato
February 24	Edie Chapman
February 25	Janet Manktelow
February 25	Pamela Hughes
February 26	Maxine Babcock



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 15	John Cook & Wilma Redman
-------------	--------------------------

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 January include:

WPC Christian Education Team

Minutes January 2, 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

In Spirit: Ellen Avery

Upcoming Events:

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 24- Palm Sunday Parade during worship

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- Cim shared that the three older kids came in on January 1 to practice the skit and music for the service on Sunday. We are excited about the service.

New WPC Webpage CE Content- Emily wrote a blurb about our SS curriculum and sent it to Bill Bush. Jody wrote the adult Sunday School section and sent it to Bill Bush. Please send any photographs to Bill to add.

Confirmation- starting January 15- Emily will send Pastor Hodong meeting invites. Jody agreed to serve as a mentor for Brenna. We are still in need of a mentor for David. We brainstormed a few ideas and Emily will reach out.

Toddler Time- Cim reported that the December 12 Toddler Time was a lot of fun- 16 children came and Santa made an appearance. There will be two Toddler Times in January and February. February 1 will be the first story hour. Chris Oaks will be the guest reader and it will have a beach theme.

Camp Whitman Board Update- Cim shared that a new camp director was announced- Bryan Muecke from Jamestown. He has experience running a Christian Camp and making camps a year-round experience.

Jody's Adult Class- Her year long series has ended. She is looking to start a new class in April and is looking at book study options.

VBS-Cim reported we will use Cave Quest as our VBS theme this year.

Triennium- we discussed the 2025 Triennium; we will need to start thinking about fundraising for summer of 2024.

Pastor Hodong's Adult Education Ideas- Pastor Hodong shared he would like to have 3 adult lecture series. We will plan this in depth at our February meeting. Emily reached out to two people regarding the Wellness theme.

Next meeting: February 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hunt

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

December 5th, 2023

Present: Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Patti Dlugosh, Linda Pulcini, and Pastor Hodong

In Support: Sara Bush

Meeting opening with lighting of the **Christ Candle** *1Peter 4:10*

Gifts -We discussed the quiet gifts that are ours from the moment we arise in the morning and beyond. We each listed some quiet gift that remains with us and fills our soul.

1. **Approval of last month's minutes with below corrections** Motion: Sandy M. Second: Patty D.

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

Dec-23	Deacons Checking Account	WPC Budget Line item
Initial balance	\$1,092.55	\$500.00
Additions	\$77.00	
Deductions	(\$159)	
Ending balance	\$1,010.57	

- a. Balances
 - b. Transactions: Deacon designated donations and purchase of olive tree lasered gifts, address labels and stamps
 - c. We need a second signature for our checking account with Sylvia stepping down. Patty D. has volunteered. This discussion came about by Sandy mentioning that she would need to write a check to cash for the purchase of the gifts to be included in the special need's cards.
3. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards - none received
4. Communion – on Christmas Eve service 12/24 at 9pm
- a. Who to assist in preparation... and when: Nancy T; Linda P; Sandy M; and Randy K to prepare elements for evening service following morning service.
 - b. We have enough pita bread for communion and enough gluten free pita for Dec.
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
- a. Hodong has asked that we meet with Kathy to ensure her list and ours reflect all the folks that are visible ad hidden that are celebrated in the fold of the WPC. (This is for cards to be sent out.)

****Who can assist with Poinsettia deliveries & WHEN: **Tuesday, December 26th at 10AM**

- Ask each Deacon to email suggested names for flowers to Randy prior to delivery date so that she can have addresses and phone numbers ready for folks.
- Get count of plants to be delivered from Worship Team

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	S.S. created cards
March	6	20	64	39	12-Mar-23	
April	6	11	56	57	9-Apr-23	deliver 21 lilies / S.S. created cards
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	delivered 22 Cup Cakes
September	12	14	68	66	10-Sep-23	
October	12	10	57	60	1-Oct-23	2 floral bouquets delivered
November	5	6	52	60	11/12/2023	7 floral bouquets delivered
December	0	0	0	0		pointsettia deliveries
Year to Date	103	160	667	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 of 20 names are currently reached out to monthly.
 - a. Those off the list – A.A. and R.M. as of end of this year
 - b. Added CE created cards. (28 received) offered holiday greetings to folks that are currently attending worship. Asked for 3 more
 - c. Little Olive wood carved gifts inserted with most cards being mailed along with note paper with scripture.

9. Monthly Notes: Bible
 1 Peter 4:10 – “God has given each of us a gift from his great variety of Spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”

Old Business:

1. Reports of Prayer List contacts
2. Session Updates – leadership for teams
 - a. When the annual report is due Jan 2nd – Brainstorm of elements to be included in the report was generated. Request for ALL team members to edit report prior to submission.

New Business:

1. Change of responsibilities for Birthday/Anniversary cards: Sara B will complete 2023, but Linda P. will pick it up come 2024.
2. Looking for suggestions of Deacons to join team – One suggestion made. That person will be approached by Randy.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting Monday, 1/8/2024 @ 10:00am

Please take notice, **DATE CHANGE**

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

Fellowship Minutes

1/8/24 2:00 PM

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

We first packed away the decorations from Fellowship Hall and the library.

Welcomed Jan as a new member of the team.

Sweets and Treats - 2/11 after church.

beverages: coffee, tea, water, juice (Sue volunteered to get the juice)

Meet at 9:15 to set up 2 tables down in the center.

Mardi Gras theme. We have some decorations left from last year. Will note in the Spire to come festive.

5th Sunday potlucks: due to holidays/ and other conflicts we are opting to try and have an event each month.

On 3/17 we will host a Soup/Chili potluck. Plan on bringing your favorite soup or chili.

On 6/30 we will host a potluck. Details to be worked out later.

On 9/22 we will host our annual "Welcome back to Church" picnic.

On 10/27 we will host our annual "Western Horizons" coffee hour, when we honor members who have dedicated over 50 years to the service of Christ.

We discussed the possibility of hosting a movie or game night in April perhaps co-host with Christian Ed. Open to suggestions from the congregation.

Would like to consider holding a progressive dinner during the year. Possibly in October depending on availability of people hosting. Anyone interested in hosting please contact one of the team members.

Next meeting tentatively set for 2/5 at 2:00 pm. Hopefully, the 1st Monday at 2:00 pm will become our new meeting schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm Underwood

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES DECEMBER 27, 2023

The Finance Committee actually met twice in December. At our meeting on Dec. 4th, we met with Ryan Tomko, our representative from Howe & Rusling. Despite less-than-optimal conditions in the stock market our investments have done well and the outlook for 2024 is even better. We reviewed our portfolio of stocks which still managed to provide an annual income of \$50,024. The value of our bonds is just over \$2,000,000 (we are so very lucky) with an annual income of \$88,087. Ryan T. feels our investment policy is still strong and recommends that it should stay the same.

He also recommends that authorized signatures on the accounts, William Bush, Eric Chapman, and William Hassler, should be updated. We agreed to have my name added, replacing Bill Bush.

He recommended Jonathan Miller at Bonadino as someone to help us answer our questions on a potential audit versus a review and to ask about pricing for both. Eric C. also had a contact, and I will be lining something up to speak to both about getting quotations.

Lastly, Ryan T. will have an updated quarterly distribution amount in early January.

At our second meeting on December 27th, we discussed Bill Bush's recommendation of setting up a PayPal account for the addition of adding a donation capability to our new website (something he has begun re-designing). I shared an email from Bill I received on the 21st. The PayPal account will require us to give PayPal our bank routing and account numbers. Usually, an organization sets up a new dedicated checking account in the bank they already do business with. This account would only be used for PayPal transactions, giving PayPal no access to our other accounts.

PayPal versus Venmo -

1. PayPal owns Venmo (I had no idea). Either of them would be acceptable to Bill but he feels the question comes down to which one is most broadly used and recognized. Why is that important? Because people want to avoid having to expose their credit card or other donor information to yet another website. By giving through PayPal, there's no additional risk as their payment information doesn't need to go to the church and as Bill pulled from Venmo's website, "charities can add a Pay with Venmo smart button on their website to enable consumers to make payments via Venmo which goes into their PayPal account".
2. He feels strongly that Vanco would be a name NOT recognized widely and therefore is likely NOT to be used. Also, Vanco charges a 2% fee each transaction and limits the amount of withdrawals each month (once a month and \$100 minimum) On PayPal you can withdraw any amount any number of times and they have a not-for-profit discount.
3. And once again I quote Bill' "Tools, methods, accountability, and simplicity PayPal does online payments for a living". He has used them for online donations for Family Promise, his church in Texas and the Lions Club in Texas. PayPal provides the website code, a QR code and a hyperlink that can be shared with people to donate. The online statements and accounting are easy to use and straightforward.

Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team Minutes January 3, 2024

Jan is moving to Fellowship Team. She will continue to replenish the food cupboard. Even so, she will be missed. Thank you, Jan, for your contributions to the mission of WPC.

Food Pantry update – Don and family took the Reverse Advent Calendar Donations to the pantry. By Jan 14th they have been taken by the clients who use the food pantry.

Food Cupboard “Take what you need, Give what you can.” - It is being used whenever the cupboard is filled. From what we have observed, it seems to be used by several different families. One woman told Irene that she had recently lost her job and she used the cupboard to feed her family.

Good Neighbor Fund Update - \$2039 deposited after concert and it is all used.

Weekend Wellness – WPC has been on the packing detail once a month – WPC is down for Jan 16th to pack again.

Packing first and third Tuesday – 250 bags each time. 125 to school each week.

Family Promise – Monday Meals at the Day Center: 8 times this year. Volunteer to help on any of these days by contacting Jody or Irene.

Jody – Feb 5th, April 8th, July 29th, November 4th

WPC – March 25th, April 22nd, July 22nd, Nov 25th (no first Mondays)

Closet – mattresses, sheets, lights, waste baskets, etc. will be taken to Day Center

During Lent we will again use the loaf banks and use a blessings calendar. Money given will be sent to the Presbytery for the Hunger Fund. This money is given to food ministries around the Presbytery.

Presbytery Grant – Mission Team will again ask for \$3,000 for the Good Neighbor Fund.

Mission Team Worship – March 17th will be the mission team worship service this year. Pastor Hodong is interested that we provide opportunities for service to the community. It is hoped someone from Family Promise will come and share how we, individually and corporately, could take a more active role in Family Promise. We will discuss other areas that we can provide opportunities for service.

Session met the evening of January 3rd and the mission team’s funding for 2024 is 10% of pledges - \$6,680. Session has agreed to look at the mission team line item and see if it can be increased from funds invested with Schwab. The funds invested were excess Operations income in the beginning of the 2000’s.

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Fadden

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

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

1 Excused: Philip Opdycke

0 Absent

- Motion made by James McFarlane seconded and carried to approve the agenda.
Sue Leonard shared devotions with us.

Clerks Report

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the Oct. session meeting.

E-mail Votes

- Motion made by Deacons seconded and carried to hold the Agnes Griffith Memorial Service at our church on Oct. 27, 2023, with Reverend HoDong Hwang officiating.
- Motion made by Susan Leonard seconded and carried to have the sanctuary on the Historic Palmyra Christmas Home Tour on December 2, 2023, from 4 – 8PM.

The following deaths are recorded: **Dorothy Schlee (M) DOD 9/28/23 at the age of 98.** A memorial service was held on Oct 4 2023, at 10:00AM in the church sanctuary with Reverend Dr Nancy J. Farrell officiating.

Agnes E. Griffith (N/M) DOD 10/19/23 at the age of 92. A memorial service was held in the church sanctuary on Oct. 27, 2023, at 11:00AM. Reverend HoDong Hwang officiated.

Financial Secretary Report

October 2023

	<u>Current</u> <u>Month</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD%</u> <u>Budget</u>
Receipts	\$9089	\$154,378	\$147,077	105.2%
Expenditures	\$11,647	\$94,151	\$140,046	67.23%
Total Receipts/Expenditures	(\$2558)	\$60,587	\$ 7,031	

- Motion made by Norm Underwood seconded and carried to approve Financial Secretary's report.

Business of the Church

- Motion made by Christian Ed Ministry Team and carried to approve Toddler Time being held up to 4 times a month with the dates being determined by Cimberly McFarlane.
- Motion made by Christian Ed. Ministry Team and carried to hold Camp Whitman and Retreat Sunday Feb. 11, 2024.
- Motion made by Christian Ed. Ministry Team and carried to allow the use of Fellowship Hall for a Family Story Time during the evening. Cim McFarlane will set the dates and put on the church calendar.
- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to hold the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 21, 2024, following the morning worship service. Annual reports will be due in the church office Jan. 2, 2024.

Talked about the possibility of getting an HAS/FSA for Kathy. More research will be done and brought back to the next session meeting.

- Motion made by Property Ministry Team and carried to purchase an air purifier for the office.
- Motion made by Property Ministry Team and carried to purchase 2 new laptop computers. One will be for Cim McFarlane and one for the AV system. The cost will be left to the property team as they are good stewards of the church finances.

John Fong has received a grant from Synod to work with churches to improve their online presence through Facebook and their website. We talked about the need for our church to do this.

- Motion made by Alicia Lynch seconded and carried to approve working with John Fong as a co-host of our Facebook page.
- Motion made by Sue Leonard seconded and carried to allow Norm Underwood to serve another year on session, until a replacement can be found to lead the Fellowship team.

Ministry Team Reports

Worship Ministry Team – Christmas Eve Day will have 2 services. One at 10:00AM and one at 9:00PM.

Fellowship Ministry Team – next meeting will be in January, Sweets-n- Treats will be Feb. 11, 2024.

Mission Ministry Team – Next meeting will be in December.

- Motion made by Mission Ministry Team and carried to allow Val Fowler and Friends to put on a concert in the sanctuary on Dec. 17th at 3:00 PM to benefit the Good Neighbor Fund.

Finance Ministry Team- they will continue to work on setting up online donations.

Christian Ed Ministry Team – confirmation class will start in Jan. with either 3 or 4 kids. Will be taking the kids to The Festival of Light in Macedon on Dec. 16th.

Property Ministry Team – they are checking on moving the NYSEG meter from the basement to the outside for easier access.

- Motion made by Emily Hunt seconded and carried to allow Vacation Bible School to use the church sanctuary starting in 2024.

Deacons Ministry Team -

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	S.S. created cards
March	6	20	64	39	12-Mar-23	
April	6	11	56	57	9-Apr-23	deliver 21 lilies / S.S. created cards
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	delivered 22 Cup Cakes
September	12	14	68	66	10-Sep-23	
October	12	10	57	60	1-Oct-23	2 floral bouquets delivered
Year to Date	98	154	615	494		

* communions 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

Next Meeting will be January 2, 2024 to allow for the Finance Team time to finalize the budget so session can vote on it before the congregational meeting.

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

Janet Manktelow
 Clerk

During Lent 2024 the Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team invites your family to ponder all the blessings you have. "Put in the loaf bank amounts" that are suggestions and you may give as you are able. On Sundays, we have put a Bible verse about food, faith, and good deeds. We hope it will remind you of all the blessings you have.

















The donations will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 24th, but you may bring them back at your convenience. The money collected will be sent to the Presbytery for Hunger Grants and will be used at food ministries throughout the Presbytery.

Thank you for caring and sharing during Lent of 2024.

Sharing is Caring Calendar

Each day, take a moment to think about the blessings that you have from God and how you can share with those who are in need.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>John 6:35 <i>'Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and</i></p>	<p><i>whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."</i></p> 	<p><i>While this verse is certainly speaking of spiritual hunger and thirst, it is also about physical bread and clean water.</i></p>	<p>Feb 14 If you ate breakfast today, add 25¢</p> 	<p>Feb 15  Some people sleep on the ground. Put in 10¢ for each bed in your house.</p>	<p>Feb 16 Add 2 cents for every condiment in your fridge.</p> 	<p>Feb 17 If you had meat today, add \$.50.</p>  Many have a lot of meals without meat.
<p>Isaiah 58:10 <i>Give your food to the hungry and care for the homeless. Then your light will shine in the dark; your darkest hour will be like the noonday sun.</i></p>	<p>Feb 19 Do you have clean running water? Put in 5 cents for each faucet in your home.</p> 	<p>Feb 20  "Give us our daily bread." Put in 2 cents for each slice you ate today.</p>	<p>Feb 21 Be thankful for vision. Give 20¢ for each family member who wears glasses.</p> 	<p>Feb 22 Many people have an "outdoor" bathroom. Give 15¢ for each bathroom in your house.</p> 	<p>Feb 23 Did you stop for a coffee or latte today? If so, give 50¢ for each "fancy" drink you had.</p> 	<p>Feb 24 Many in the world have never "eaten out." Give 10¢ for each time you have eaten out this week.</p> <p>McDs, Wendy's, Dunkin, Tim Hortons</p>

<p>Proverbs 22:9</p> <p><i>The LORD blesses everyone who freely gives food to the poor.</i></p>	<p>Feb 26</p> <p>Some people don't have meat to eat. Give 10¢ for each time your family had meat today.</p>	<p>Feb 27</p> <p>"I was thirsty and you gave me a drink."</p>  <p>Put in 2¢ for each drink you had today.</p>	<p>Feb 28</p> <p>Give 1¢ for each time a family member opened the refrigerator today.</p> 	<p>Feb 29</p> <p>For each time you used your washing machine this week put in 10 cents. It costs much more at a laundromat.</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>Be thankful. For each tree in your yard, add 10 cents</p> 	<p>March 2</p> <p>Some people need to walk everywhere they go. Put in 15¢ for each bike or car that your family has.</p>
<p>Luke 3:11b</p> <p><i>"Anyone who has food should give to the one who has none."</i></p>	<p>March 4</p> <p>"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat."</p> <p>Put in 3¢ for each time you had something to eat today, including snacks and treats.</p>	<p>March 5</p> <p>If you were able to go to bed NOT hungry add 25¢</p>  <p>zzz</p>	<p>March 6</p>  <p>If you don't have to cook over an open fire, put in 25¢ for each range, microwave, slow cooker, etc.</p>	<p>March 7</p> <p>Imagine living without a refrigerator and freezer.</p> <p>Put in a quarter for each appliance you have to keep your food edible.</p>	<p>March 8</p> <p>We are so blessed to have electricity. Give 4¢ for each light in your home.</p> 	<p>March 9</p> <p>Some people live in huts or one-room homes.</p> <p>Give 5¢ for each room in your home</p>
<p>Mathew 25: 31-46</p> <p><i>Whenever you give food to the hungry and drink to those who are thirsty, "you do it for me."</i></p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>How many Bibles are in your home?</p>  <p>Give 10¢ for each one.</p>	<p>March 12</p> <p>Education is denied to many.</p>  <p>Give 5¢ for each high school diploma and 10¢ for each college degree</p>	<p>March 13</p> <p>Sing Praises to God</p>  <p>Put in 10¢ for each musical instrument in your house. Don't forget your voice.</p>	<p>March 14</p> <p>Medicine bottles</p>  <p>Give 5¢ for each medicine bottle in your home.</p>	<p>March 15</p> <p>Have a sink?</p>  <p>Put in 5¢ for each sink in your home.</p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>Add 5¢ for each chair at your dining table.</p> 
<p>James 2:16</p> <p><i>¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?!</i></p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>Put in 5¢ for every device that connects to the internet.</p> 	<p>March 19</p> <p>We are so blessed to have electricity. Give 2¢ for each electric outlet in your home.</p> 	<p>March 20</p>  <p>Put in 25¢ for each soap dispenser in your house.</p>	<p>March 21</p> <p>Put in 5 cents for every pair of shoes in your family.</p> 	<p>March 22</p> <p>Add a nickel every time you used water today.</p> <p>Flushing Bathing Dishes Drink Cleaning</p>	<p>March 23</p>

adapted from Presbyterian Hunger Program | www.pcusa.org/hunger

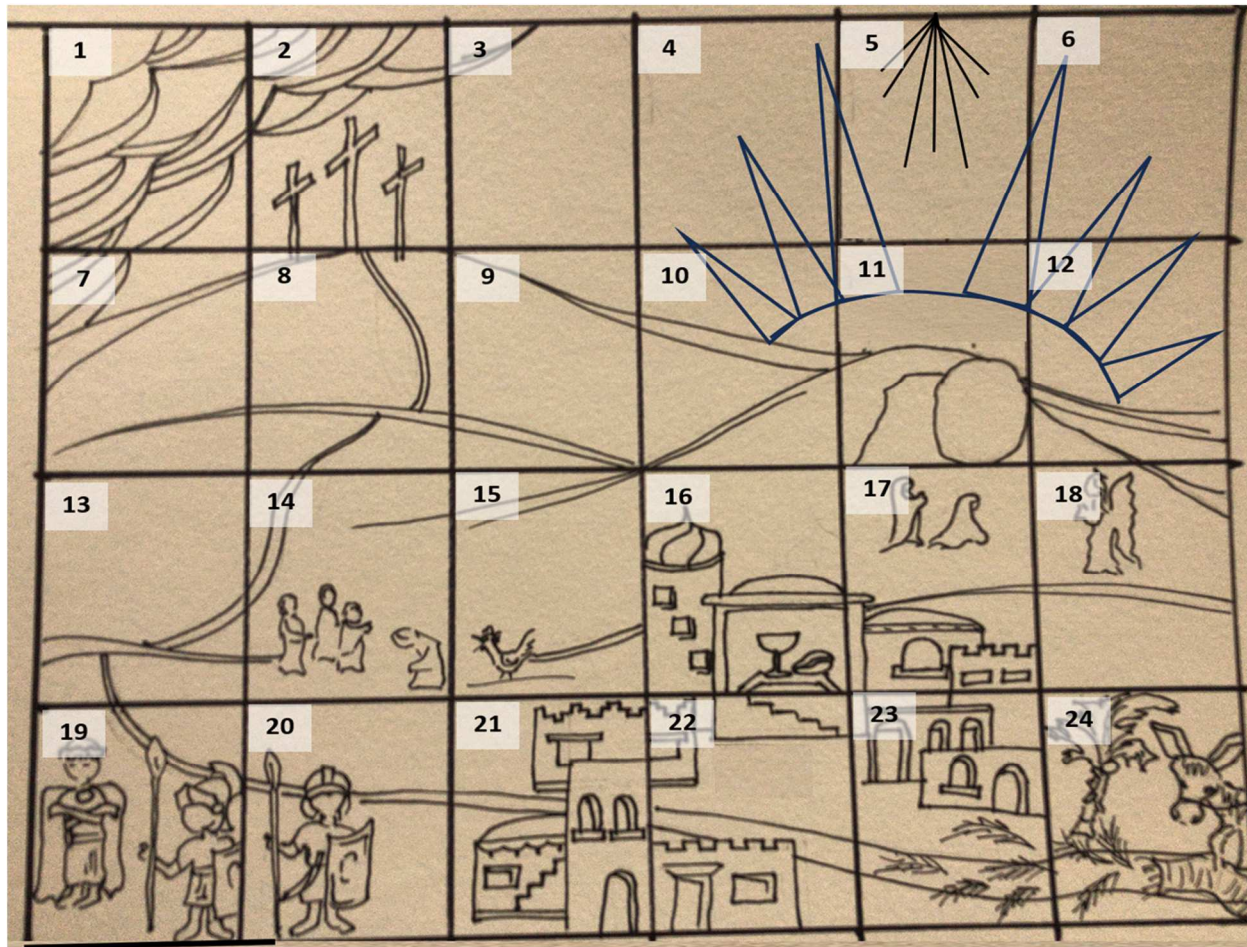


Lent Faith Paint on Saturday, March 9th at 10 am

Ever since we came together to create the paneled nativity painting, there have been requests to do a Lent one. Dear friends, that is actually a very big task. I had to first be certain of all the elements of the Lent experience, and then lay them out in such a way to tell the story. It is important to me that even those in the back row and on Facebook can view the panels sufficiently to find solace in the imagery. After meeting with Rev. Hodong to fine tune the painting, this is what has been created. Now, look at your calendar and determine if you can meet with all and paint as part of the group. If you still want to paint a panel, simply let me, Randy Kennard, know and I will make sure you get all the supplies.

So.... If you would like to be part of this inspirational creation, you are truly welcome. All you need to do is sign up to do a panel and indicate if you will be taking the panel home to paint or join those who will be meeting in fellowship hall to paint their panel. If you have a passion to paint a specific panel, please ask Kathy Barr to put your name for that panel or ask Randy Kennard to do so for you.

The sign-up sheet for the panels is located outside the Church office.



All supplies to complete each panel will be available.

Color suggestions and possible painting techniques will be offered.

Community coming together for a meaningful creation to share during worship will be the outcome along with a fun time.

All skill levels are welcome. There is something for everyone.

Our Prayer Concerns (updated January 17, 2024)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Donald Harvey (requested by Joan & Lloyd Durfey)

Family & Friends of Marilyn Clary (requested by Esther Hargrave)

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, Jill Berber, Sandy Campbell, Sarah Carone, Joyce Clark, Tracy D'Arduini & Linda Pulcini, Jacquie DeBrine, Irene Fadden, Rev. Deborah Grohman, Jonathan Groff, Elmer Hanna, Linda Hanna, Laurie Harvey, Angelo Mascioli, Deb Merla, Mary Greenlaw-Meyer, Sue Nussbaumer, Joyce Oster, Gail Rapp, Dennis & wife Ann Sapienza, Fran Storm, Frank Surace, 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, Ed Cole, Janet Hassler Costa, Gary Culver, Kathleen Dougherty, Joan Durfey, Janet Haigh, Marge Harloff, Russell Harris, Bobby & Eileen Haurand, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Roger King, Gary Lashway, Frank Lawrence, Jessica Locey Otto, 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.



FEBRUARY 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1 6:00 -7:00 pm FH Family Story Time	2	3
4 5 th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Scout Sunday	5 2 pm Fellowship 6-7 pm FH Confirmation Class	6 10 am Deacons 10 am to Noon Toddler Time 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	7 10 am Mission/ Social Concerns	8	9	10
11 Camp & Retreat Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Sweets & Treats	12 6-7 pm FH Confirmation Class	13 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Christian Ed.	14 Ash Wednesday 7 pm Service	15	16	17
18 1 st Sunday in Lent Communion & Cereal Sunday No Sunday School 10 am worship service	19 President's Day Office Closed 6-7 pm FH Confirmation Class	20 SPIRE DEADLINE 10 am to Noon Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	21 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	22	23	24
25 2 nd Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	26 6-7 pm FH Confirmation Class	27 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	28	29		



MARCH 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	4 2 pm Fellowship 6-7 pm FH Confirmation Class	5 10 am Deacons 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	6 10 am Mission/ Social Concerns	7	8	9 10 am FH Faith Paint
10 Daylight saving time begins 4 th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	11 6-7 pm FH Confirmation Class	12 10 am-Noon Toddler Time 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	13 7 pm FH Boy Scouts	14	15	16
17 5 th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Mission Team worship service Soup/Chili Potluck	18 6-7 pm FH Confirmation Class	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	20 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	21	22 5-7 pm Set Up Easter Bunny Breakfast	23 7 am to 11 am FH Easter Bunny Breakfast
24 Palm/Passion Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Palm Sunday Parade	25	26 10 am-Noon Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	27	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday 7 pm Service	30
31 Easter Sunday Communion & Cereal Sunday No Sunday School 10 am worship service						