



WESTERN SPIRE OCTOBER 2023

Isaiah 43:18-21

“Forget the former things. Do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
The wild animals honor me, the jackals, and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”

Whether we recognize it or not, our worldview, the way to look at the world and human life, determines how we live our lives. More specifically, it determines how we perceive and interpret things that are happening in the world and in our lives. Our worldview interacts with our perceiving, thinking, knowing, and doing and is to be adjusted when discrepancy happens between its structure and the reality. Of course, we are not born with our worldview, and it was initially formed in ourselves over time through our relationships with our family & friends, through our efforts to fit in the society/community, and through various life events. But in our adult life, our almost-fixed worldview affects almost every aspect of our life.

If someone says, “Every existing thing is born without reason, prolongs itself out of weakness, and dies by chance,” we can assume that his/her attitudes toward self, others, and society may be negative and prone to self-indulgence. Such negativity also wrecks his/her relationships. Even though the quote came from the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre and his philosophy of existentialism escaped from the temptation of Nihilism, the language of this worldview can easily lead other people to a very different direction. For example, Paul says in 1Corinthians 15:32, “If the dead are not raised, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die,’” to explain the aimlessness of life without the hope of resurrection.

The reason I mention such a huge theme like ‘worldview’ is because it explains why I am so excited to begin my ministry at Western Presbyterian Church. I have been touched by the leaders, deacons, and many other church members who have been committed not only to keeping the church going but also to caring for others in the midst of a highly unstable environment for the last two years without a pastor. Their commitment is not a simple and impulsive decision but reflects the ways to understand God, church, and the purpose of their life. Since I came to WPC a month ago, I have already experienced so many cases to find out their commitment and sacrifices, for which I am very thankful.

I believe it is God who puts me here. That is the most important thing for me. I know there are many Christians who pour out their energy to manifest the kingdom of God in the world, but for most Christians church is the most important and only viable entity to show their faith in God. To build a community of love and to extend its love to the suffering neighbors is a sure way to glorify God. I am excited to be a part of God’s story in WPC.

With the excitement, I am going to start a sermon series titled “New Beginning through the stories of Abraham.” I believe God wants to give us the victory as Paul foresaw in 1Corinthians 15:57, “Thanks be to God. He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I believe that, if we do not win, it is mostly because we don’t play to win. I believe God wants us to come together to experience the joy of victory, maybe one at a time, maybe more small victories than big ones, but still, they are victories that lead us to something bigger until we find the final victory in Christ.

Pastor Hodong Hwang

Weekend Wellness News

Without school lunches and breakfasts on the weekends, some students may not have enough food on Saturday and Sunday. Weekend Wellness is a program that provides bags of food to children who may be food insecure on the weekends. The bags hold individual servings of breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the weekend that children and youth can fix for themselves with a microwave.

For the past several years the Pal-Mac community has used pre-bagged food from Foodlink. But the cost is prohibitive this year, SO...

Through the Food Pantry we will be purchasing food and packing bags again. The churches in the community are being asked to support the Weekend Wellness program by donating items. Mission Team is asking that we at WPC bring in granola bars and individual servings of Mac and Cheese. There will be a box at the front of the church for your food donations and of course money is always needed.

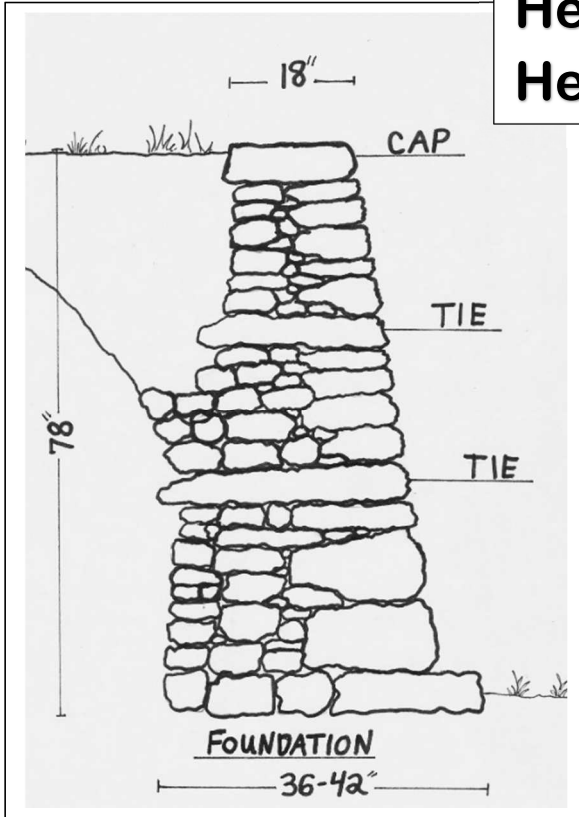


Please watch for opportunities to package the food into bags.

Notices will be put in the announcements and on the bulletin board.

Women's Circle –

Here's what we unwrapped from Hebrews this month!!



What does a stone wall built in the dry wall construction process have anything to do with the book of Hebrews in the New Testament? Melissa Bane Sevier has written the series of lessons that we are learning about through “Cloud of Witnesses – The community of Christ in Hebrews” study guide.

There are hymns that we sing that reference the strong foundation as a bedrock to our faith in Jesus. With the stable broad foundation of a dry-stone wall, that ensures the wall's structural integrity. We too need this strong foundation in our faith world. We talked about the value

of sharing our faith within a community of sharing. If we attend worship and together hear the same message, we have a commonality. We have a reference together. That enables a point to discuss our faith, our heard message, and compare and contrast what we have taken from the worship experience.

On the other hand, if the sermon is simply emailed to us, or snail mailed to us, we can read it and perhaps take some or all of the message funneled through our own references, our own experiences. By being alone, without interaction of any kind of community, whether they be friends, family, co-workers ..., there is a sense of isolation. A place where depression and mind-games can venture in and possibly distort our foundation.

We listened and read Hebrews 1:1-4 and 12:1-3. In small groups we expressed what we imagined from these scriptures:

- Jesus sitting on the right hand of God following his death and resurrection.
- The need to cleanse and cast-off burdens and to rely on Jesus – set our sight on Jesus.
- Jesus, greater than angels, is the circle of life generation to generation.
- Jesus is the imprint of God's being, heir of all things created.

If we were found to be ungrounded, without any foundation, we might cry, pray, or take deep breaths. What is it about Jesus that can give you a sense of security?

- Jesus is always there and has endured so much so that we do not have to. With Jesus, all things are possible.
- Faith that there is a Jesus offers peace.
- Jesus has asked that there be faith, even through the sacrifice on the cross.
- When groundless, we can be secure in the knowledge that God will always listen and give support.

After digging through the messages of these readings, it was brought to our attention that Hebrews 12:1-3 is one of Rev. Hodong's favorite scriptures. How fitting it is that this is where we started our Hebrews journey as we are also starting our journey with our new pastor!

Come with us on this journey of laying rocks onto our firm foundation to build strong walls of faith, community, fellowship and friendship.

Women's circle meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. You can join in with us at any time. All are welcome at our table. Hope to see you in fellowship hall on October 18th at 1PM.

Point to Ponder:

We are like books. Most people only see our cover, the minority read only the introduction, many people believe the critics. Few will know our content.

By Emile Zola

Communion bread

- *“The bread represents the body of Jesus,,,,”*

Have you ever really wondered what kind of bread was on the table at the last supper? Most paintings have a loaf, typical to what we would bake or buy today. But really, is this the kind of bread found in Jesus’ time?

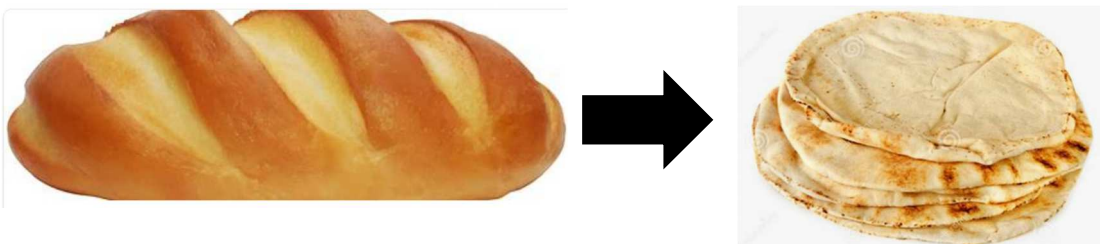
Well, the Deacons have discussed this very topic. We considered using a bread high in grain content, similar to the kind of bread with minimal grain grinding that might be available way back then. We sampled it at our meeting. It was delicious! However, it was also very... VERY dry. We were concerned with folks struggling in the pews for lack of liquid to wash it down.

Rev. Hodong had used pita bread in his previous church. He said the pita bread is more representative of the bread used in Biblical times. How powerful for us to shift this small thing to bring us closer to Jesus. Thus, you will notice that the bread being offered during communion will not be what has been used in the past. *After all, these times they are a changin!*

Because some folks may have a gluten allergy, he wanted us to use a gluten-free pita bread. Sorry, that was not offered at Wegman’s. We will need to check at Trader Joes in the future. Hodong wanted everyone to share in the same bread. This is a beautiful idea. We will keep looking.

The Deacons just wanted you to know why the bread was different during the last communion.

WHAT DO YOU THINK???



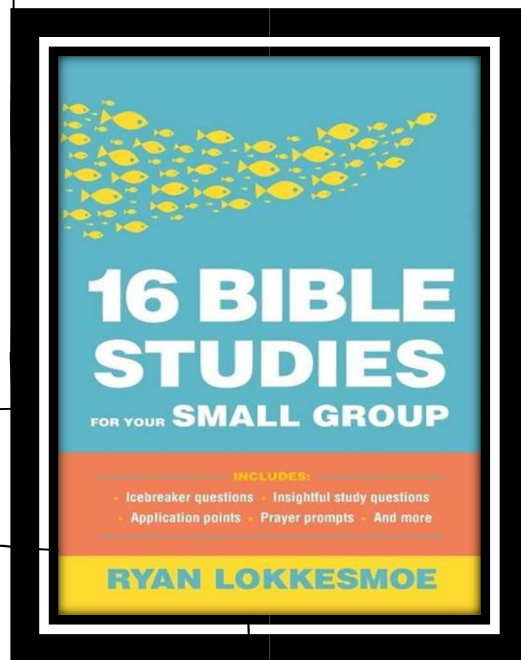
Adult Bible Study is

Coming Back

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am

Lead by Jody Pruitt ~ CE Team

Meets in Fellowship Hall



Come join us!!

It's not too late. The Group is
restarting October 8.

Each Chapter is Independent of the
others, so join anytime.

Need a Book (\$10) see Jody



October 8 ~ Chapter 10

Dates: **Oct 8, 22**

Nov 5, 19

Dec 3, 17



I would like to share with you some brief information regarding The One Great Hour of Sharing. This special offering will take place on Sunday October 15th and contributes to the church missions both here at home and throughout the world. The missions are focused on hunger, self-development of peoples, and disaster relief. These projects involve working with communities to provide food, end poverty, and provide aid to refugees. This project also provides aid to victims of natural disasters by providing food, water, and supplies. Through these efforts the WPC provides aid and support to communities both here at home and around the world.

Checks can be written to Western Presbyterian Church with "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line of the check. Thank you for your support.

Cassie Hughes

I would like to thank our entire church family for their supporting and loving messages on the death of my beloved Janet. It helped at such a heartbreaking time.

Thank you, Doris Chriswell

Save the Date

WPC Fall Rummage Sale Dates are set:

October 26, 27, 28

Fall
**RUMMAGE
SALE**



**Donation Drop-off
starting October 15th**

- * Time to clean out closets, garages, cupboards and all the rest of the house!
- * Please price Household Items, Toys, and such (we need your help)
- * Please No large appliances or furniture.

~ Thanks

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

Sign-ups coming October 8th - Thank You 

WPC

Fall
**RUMMAGE
SALE**



October 26-28, 2023

Hello WPC Friends,

It's time to pull together to help make the Fall Rummage Sale successful. The Women's Association has set the date for October 26-28, 2023. If you have never helped with a Rummage Sale before - try it, you may like it! It's great fellowship. Ask a friend to come help! We will need everyone as our pool of helpers grows smaller. Thanks for helping when you can!

*A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Church Hallway or contact Jody Pruitt – contact info below.

- Monday** evening 10/23/23 **6:00-8:00 pm** We need people to help start the set-up.
- Tuesday** evening 10/24/23 **3:00-8:00 pm** unpack and set out donations
- Wednesday** 10/25/23 **2:00-8:00 pm** price items - Hopefully most will be priced as it is donated.
- Thursday** 10/26/23 **Sales** – 9 am-noon, **(4 people)** noon-3 pm **(4 people)**
- Friday** 10/27/23 **Sales** – 9 am-noon, noon-3 pm, (1-3 pm, 1/2 price) **(2 people per shift)**
- Saturday** 10/28/23 **Sales** - 9-11 am (\$4.00 bag day sale) **(2 people)**

Tear-down starts Saturday 10/28/23 at 11:00 am (6 people plus)
People are needed to help with tear down: box up and transport unsold items to Goodwill and reset Fellowship Hall with tables/chairs.

Thanks soooo much! ~Jody 315-879-7225 jody.pruitt@gmail.com

Open Your Closets and Garages and any other Storage Space
It's Time for WPC Spring Rummage Sale

***** Donations can be Dropped off starting Sunday, October 15 *****

Please price household items, toys, and such (we need your help) ~Thanks

Please no large appliances or furniture.

Hope you can help with the Fall Rummage Sale – benefits the Women's Association
All Help is Appreciated 🙏

CELEBRATE

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM AS WE HONOR AND CELEBRATE OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE CHURCH FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

There will be a potluck lunch after church on Oct. 29th. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and table service.

Thank you, Courtney!

Once again Courtney Marr came up with an idea that kept WPC outside, on Main Street, during Canalton Days. Those who stepped up to our WPC picture frame to take a selfie had a good time doing so. And it was a good time for those from church who were out there mingling. Thank you, Courtney!

--from your church family

WESTERN HORIZONS SUNDAY

October 29, 2023



The Fellowship Team would like to congratulate and thank all our 50+ year members for serving Western Presbyterian Church.

**Our Newest Fifty Plus Members in 2023 are:
Don and Ruth Dantz, James DePoint, and Carol Sloan**

Anita Adams	06-07-1970	Frank Lawrence	03-30-1947
Kelly Babcock	12-08-1965	Walter Lester	12-04-1956
Gene Bassage	10-01-1950	Alicia Lynch	12-03-1967
Carol Campbell	12-06-1964	Janet Manktelow	12-01-1968
Doris Chriswell	04-02-1944	Sharon Marr	06-06-1965
Donald Dantz*	03-11-1973	Barbara Pieters	04-04-1971
Ruth Dantz*	03-11-1973	Susan Pringle	10-02-1966
James DePoint*	09-09-1973	Gail Rush	06-07-1970
Elaine Hassler	06-07-1964	Carol Sloan*	12-09-1973
William Hassler	03-28-1954	David Taylor	06-07-1970
Beverly Koeberle	04-22-1959	Jan Taylor	02-23-1958
Frank Koeberle	06-05-1955	Nancy Talma	04-04-1971
Gary LaBerge	04-01-1956		
Mary Beth LaBerge	03-27-1955		



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	Sheila Koeberle
October 27	John Cook
October 28	Wilma Redman
October 30	Gary Hughes

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 18	James & Cim McFarlane
October 19	Don & Ruth Dantz's 60 th anniversary

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!

The team minutes received for September include:

WPC Christian Education Team

Minutes September 5, 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:

September 17- Canal Town Days Sunday School children working selfie station booth.

September 24- First Day of Sunday School- Back to School Breakfast

October 21 (?) - Trick or Treat on Main Street (this date needs to be checked)

November 12- 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 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

Continuing and New Business

2023-2024 CE Calendar- we created a calendar for the '23-24 school year (see above)

Back to Sunday School Breakfast- Cim shared that people who come to the breakfast will make sunflowers and coloring bookmarks. We will serve a continental breakfast with breakfast pizza, muffins, and fruit. We will revisit who is going to bring what breakfast item.

Curriculum for 2023-2024-we will continue to use PC(USA) MultiAge Sunday School curriculum, *Growing In Grace and Gratitude*. Cim will order.

Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers- Emily reached out to Pastor Ho Dong on a possible date. We are looking at October 8- more information to come. Pastor Ho Dong asked specific questions as far as WPC procedures for commissioning.

Activities for Children During Worship- Pastor Ho Dong and Joan Durfey shared some ideas for children during worship. We decided to move forward with Joan's busy bag idea. We will revisit the idea of the craft table in the sanctuary at a later time. Emily connected with Joan to use green room supplies and get started. We will need to find clipboards and coloring pages.

Canal Town Days Selfie Station- WPC is participating in Canal Town Days with a selfie station as a community outreach project. Sunday School youth will "man" the booth on Sunday from 10-12.

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

Camp Whitman Board Update- Cim announced that Leah is leaving Camp Whitman. The board is working on a job description and starting plans to form an interview committee.

Adult Class- Jody reported her adult Sunday School class will continue into the fall. The dates will be coming soon. A survey will be coming soon with adult interest in a Bible Study with Pastor Ho Dong.

CTNS Task Force- Cim shared about the last meeting of the task force. She is working with Rachel who is going to run a toddler/preschool time at the Palmyra Community Center to join forces. Cim mentioned the possibility of rotating locations for the toddler time with the PCC and WPC (for example the first and third Tuesday at the PCC and the fourth Tuesday at WPC)- more information to come.

Confirmation- We discussed the need to start a confirmation class for our middle school students soon. Emily followed up with Pastor Ho Dong to check his readiness. Emily will check the green room to see what curriculum exists. Pastor Ho Dong is interested in using Big God Big Questions (12 sessions). He wants to confirm with the families of the children who are of age and wants to find church members interested in being mentors.

Nursery- we quickly talked about the need for opening the nursery again.

Year End Gifts- We do not think we have any second graders or seniors this year. If we missed anyone, please let us know.

Next meeting: October 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hunt

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

September 5th, 2023

Present: Sandy McMEnamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Patti Dlugosh & Sara Bush

In Support: Linda Pulcini & Sylvia Lyon

Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle

1. Psalm 46:10 – “Be still and know that I am God” The Lost watch in the barn [rearrange 2 letters and silent becomes listen.
2. **Approval of last month’s minutes** *with below corrections Motion: Sandy Second Sara*
 - a. Correction of header where it read Deacons Team Meeting Agenda – needed to be Minutes.
3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status– Sandy M. – receipt in mailbox?
 - a. Need to get final pastoral care report from Rev. Nancy Farrell – report received after mtg.
 - b. Discussion re “These Days” Devotionals annual order-
 - i. Usually order 15, but many months all are gone. Up monthly order to 20 copies
 - ii. We had intended that the devotionals would be taken from the church budget line. Since we have a significant balance, we decided to take funds from deacon’s account. If our balance is at risk, we will lean on the line item.
 - c. Balances

	Deacons checking Account	WPC Budget Line Item
Initial balance	\$ 951.74	\$ 500.00
Additions	\$29+\$27.90	
Deductions	-\$16.09	
Ending balance	\$ 992.55	\$ 500.00

4. Sharing Correspondence: letter/cards – J.C.
5. Volunteers to handle Communion on 9/10 – 15/tray (60 sets of elements)
 - a. Discussion re. different bread – more typical to Biblical times – Nancy to lead discussion.
 - i. Group agreement that this bread is too dry for communion.
 - ii. Rev. Hodong asked that we use either pita bread or gluten free pita bread if available.
 - b. Who to acquire supplies: RK will purchase supplies – they are in the church fridge and freezer now.
 - c. Who is available to assist in set-up? Meet at 9am on Sunday entire committee is available for support.
 - d. Next Month – Communion is on 10/1 Communion Sunday **** Patty D. to take lead on preparation.
6. **Update of Prayer Concerns:** Adds, Removals and Status
7. **Group Prayer – Lord, hear our prayers.**

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
Year to Date	86	144	558	434	

S.S. created cards

deliver 21 lilies / S.S. created cards

delivered 22 Cup Cakes

* 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

8. Visit/Calls/Card Counts - circulate sheet

- a. 21 names available for special care – any more suggestions? Ellen Avery? Others???
- b. Other visits with special meaningful moments of faith

9. Special Care mailings:

Current Roster: Removed one and added another. RM to be contacted by Sandy to determine the value of monthly cards.

Monthly Notes: Bible

Psalm 46:10 – “Be still, and Know that I am God”

Old Business:

- 1. Reports of Prayer List contacts
- 2. Session updates-
- 3. Prayer Request cards- Colored cards to be placed in offertory – immediately prayers will be shared in worship.

New Business:

- 1. Installation November 12th at 3 PM – second communion for this Sunday
- 2. Hodong to share greeting cards made by craft group to be used to send as spiritual support to congregants.

Meeting closed with prayer led by Rev. Hodong.

Next meeting Tuesday 10/10/2023 @ 10:00 am Shifted date due to travels

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

FELLOWSHIP MEETING

8/27/23 11:00 AM

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

Welcome back picnic: 9/24.

Drinks: water, iced tea, lemonade - Norm

Dessert: Crème Puffs - Ray, Cookies - Sue, Val, Brownies - Norm

Meats: 48 hots and 48 hamburgers - Roxie from Save-A-Lot. Rolls also.

Grill: Ray to bring 2.

Condiments: chopped onion - Val, relish, catsup, mustard - Norm (check frig)

Will check in pantry for plastic for tables. Also check for paper plates and plastic ware and cups for people who forgot place settings.

It was decided to try using text for any meeting notices instead of email.

Next meeting: tentatively 10/10 at 7:00 PM.

Norm Underwood; Chair

Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team Minutes

September 6, 2023

Present: _p_ Cassie Hughes __ex_ Edie Chapman _p__ Irene Fadden _p__ Jan Taylor
____ Johnnie Fontaine __p_ Rena Haigh _p__ Ruth Dantz _p__ Sally Chase
p Paster Hodong

The meeting opened at 10:03 with lighting of the Christ Candle, Scripture – feeding of the 5 thousand men and Prayer - remembering that God can only use what we give.

Qholaqhoe Mountain Connection – Sometime after the 13th of November, someone will come to share the mission with the congregation. At that time, a check for \$1000 will be given to the mission for their work in Lesotho.

Gift Card Ministry – Pastor Hodong shared an idea for a ministry that could help people. The congregation could purchase gift cards for food and/or gasoline that could be given to those in need. This will be discussed more fully at our next meeting. Family Promise has asked for gas gift cards in the past.

Family Promise – Because the Session approved \$25,000 for mission, we have about \$4,000 in mission money that could be given to a mission project that was not included in the Mission Team request. Family Promise is looking to purchase an apartment building for the families to live in while they are part of the program. At this time, Family Promise has \$30,000 to use as a down payment for the building. The advantages of the purchase would be that Family Promise would not have to pay rent to house the families. Currently only 2 families are in the program because Family Promise, one stays in an apartment in Lyons and one in the Day Center. The Mission Team will continue to investigate this possibility by contacting Family Promise Board Members. It is realized that Family Promise is looking for a new Director and this may make a difference in our giving towards a downpayment for an apartment building.

On October 23rd Jody Pruitt is taking Monday night dinner to Family Promise and Irene Fadden is doing it on November 20th. Anyone wishing to help may contact either Jody or Irene, especially as the rummage sale was set for the week Jody agreed to take dinner.

Food Pantry update – Ruth reported that 26 families came on one night in August. 11 families that were using Grace House were able to use the pantry at the same time.

Ruth reports that she has had plenty of volunteers the nights WPC is scheduled. St. Anne's is looking for people to volunteer as backup for their nights. If interested, please let Ruth know so she can pass the names and phone numbers along.

Food Cupboard – The food cupboard is used constantly. It is filled by members of the congregation and community. Some on Pal-Mac Neighbors have expressed that food items are needed in Palmyra because there aren't any families that are needy. We need to keep the needs of those who are food insecure.

Being able to shop for items for the food pantry and food cupboard is a joy. Mission Money for August was spent for household cleaners and personal care items for the food pantry. The mission money used for the Food Cupboard for August was used to buy cereal, canned chicken, ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs, fruit cups, mac and cheese, canned vegetables, and toilet paper.

Ruth and Don will shop for September, they liked it so much in August.

Cassie and Sally and Irene and Peter will shop in October.

Jan and Dave will shop in November.

Good Neighbor Fund Update

Beginning Balance – \$3,497.36 / deposits of \$200 from Individuals / check written for \$1,600 for 2 rents /Ending Balance – \$ 2,097.36. Served were 4 adults and 3 children.

Irene will contact Pastor Val about a concert to benefit GNF.

Weekend Wellness update – The food pantry will purchase items for the bags students take home for the weekend. Dave Nagel has agreed to purchase the items and then volunteers will bag the items for the kids. Weekend Wellness has \$7,059 to use to purchase. The mission team has \$3,000 budgeted for Weekend Wellness. Watch the pre-worship announcements to know when bags will be filled at Zion Episcopal. The bags will be delivered to the schools by the same people who delivered them last year.

Reverse Advent Calendar – We will again use a Reverse Advent Calendar to give household cleaners and personal care items.

Meals on Wheels –

ARC Home – Rena Haigh will call the home to see if they will come to the church picnic on September 24th. The team agreed that the gift card at Christmas should be \$20 for each person living in the home.

Lenten calendar – Bread Loaves. We give proceeds to Presbytery Hunger Fund which is given out with Mission and Witness Grants.

One Great Hour of Sharing – will be collected on October 15th. Cassie will get information to Kathy for the October Spire.

Spending the budgeted money

- GNF - \$1,000
- Clint McCoy Feeding Center - \$500
- Meals on Wheels – Wayne ARC - \$1,000

Sunday/Funday on July 30th. Edie was our representative at the event. The tri-fold Edie created has been given to Pastor Hodong to make him aware of mission activities. Ruth and Hodong visited the Food Pantry, Irene and Hodong visited Family Promise, and Jan and Hodong will visit Grace House.

Next Meeting September 27th at 10 AM

Closing prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Irene Fadden

Property Ministry Team - Minutes

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

Absent:

The meeting started with prayer from Phil at 6:30 pm.

Emcor scheduled to install the new boiler system and all other items in September. Gary to contact Emcor to check on a more detailed plan.

Gary to also coordinate with Mr. Pulcini on chimney modifications in preparation for boiler installation.

We discussed updated plans to change locking systems and latches on doors that can access the NYSEG meters. My hope is to be able to switch to combination lock on door in front parking lot leading to basement so NYSEG can use that area and be isolated from access to the rest of the church.

A new basement door is being installed on August 17, 2023, to replace the rotted door.

Pastor's office has been cleaned and vacuumed in preparation for start of new pastor. Will work with new pastor to update desk, pastor chair, visitor seating, and computer.

James has contacted Dell for a quote on 3 new laptops and peripheral devices. The current quote is \$3642.23. One of three computers for use by new pastor (Rev. Ho Dong). One to replace AV system laptop that has been slow and having intermittent issues. Third laptop is recommended for Cim to use in her capacity as Sunday School Director. (The personal laptop currently being used by Cim is failing and we cannot purchase a new one at this time. 80% to 90% of the time spent on the personal laptop is related to Sunday School and/or VBS work.)

Gary is working on programming of combination lock for use on Val's office door.

James has not been able to find a working solution yet to allow Val to have remote access to the church database. Hopefully the schedule will allow some more time to find a workable solution.

James to compile a list of issues with AV system and schedule time to meet with Applied Audio to discuss options to make system more reliable.

Next Meeting: Currently scheduled for 09/20/23 at 6:30 PM

A special meeting of the congregation of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend Susan Frost in Fellowship Hall. The meeting was opened with prayer.

A quorum was present.

The purpose of this meeting was to make an addendum to the church by-laws. After opening the meeting, the moderator asked if anyone had questions. Hearing none the motion was made.

- Motion made by session to add an addendum to the church by-laws allowing active members to be present online and vote in congregational meetings. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:25AM.

Janet Manktelow
Clerk

A special meeting of the congregation of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend Susan Frost at 11:25AM immediately following the morning worship service in the sanctuary. The meeting was opened with prayer.

A quorum was present.

James McFarlane, chair of the PNC, presented a report. They received 110 PIF's, had 6 interviews and 2 face-to-face meetings before calling Pastor Ho Dong Hwang. The rest of the members of the PNC spoke on why they called Pastor Ho Dong Hwang to be our next pastor.

The congregation was given time to ask questions. Hearing none the moderator called for a vote. Reverend Susan Frost reminded the congregation that only active members can vote.

- Motion made by committee (PNC) to call Pastor Ho Dong Hwang to serve as full time pastor for our church. Active members will vote by private ballot.

4 commissioners: Susan Pringle, William Hassler, Sandra McMenemy, and Jocelyn Pruitt collected the ballots plus recorded the votes online then went into the church office to count them.

Votes: 59 yes 0 no 0 abstained

Motion passed.

Copies of the Terms of Call were handed out at the beginning of the meeting to give everyone a chance to look them over. The congregation was asked if they had any questions on the Terms of Call. Hearing none the moderator called for a vote.

- Motion made by Edith Chapman seconded by David Taylor to accept the Terms of Call for Reverend Ho Dong Hwang as written. Motion passed.

A copy of the terms is attached.

- Motion made by Edith Chapman seconded by Kimberly McFarlane to dismiss the PNC with a huge thank you for the 2 plus years of dedicated service. Motion passed.

Reverend Ho Dong Hwang was called to return to the sanctuary so we could deliver the news. The congregation gave him a standing ovation as we told him he has been officially elected to serve as our pastor.

- Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded by James McFarlane to have the session approve the minutes of the congregational meetings held on July 23, 2023, and July 30, 2023. Motion passed.

- Motion made by David Taylor seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 11:55AM.

Janet Manktelow
Clerk

Reverend Susan Frost
Moderator

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

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

0 Absent

0 Excused

A quorum was present.

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to approve the agenda.

Clerks Report

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the June session meeting.
- Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the congregational meetings of July 23rd and July 30th.

E-Mail votes from June 27th – August 29th:

- Motion made by Worship Ministry Team to approve buying 2 wreaths for the front church doors. Motion passed.
- Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded and carried to approve going back to serving communion the same as pre-pandemic, which is the bread served from the silver trays and not in individual cups.
- Motion made by Susan Leonard seconded and carried to move James DePoint from the inactive list to the active list.
- Motion made by Property Ministry Team to approve the purchase of a new boiler system and additional work on the chimney. The cost would be approximately \$65,214 for the furnace plus the cost to change the chimney. The furnace would qualify for a \$1500 rebate. Motion passed.
- Motion made by Susan Leonard seconded and carried to approve purchasing business cards for HoDong.

Cim McFarlane gave the clerk an update on the progress from the task force looking into setting up a nursery school program or childcare. They are thinking that starting small with a Mom and Tot type program would be the best way to get started. Cim is going to meet with another women from the Community Center who is interested in the same thing. We want to explore the possibility of working together.

Financial Secretary's Report

		<u>June 2023</u>		
	Current	2023	2023	YTD%
Receipts	\$7,077	\$83,190	\$147,077	56.56%
Expenditures	\$12,232	\$49,238	\$140,046	35.16%
Total Receipts /Expenditures	\$(5,155)	\$33,952	\$ 7,031	

- Motion made by James McFarlane seconded and carried to approve the financial secretary's report.

Business of the Church

- Motion made by Alicia Lynch seconded and carried to allow Reverend Susan Frost to perform the wedding of Taylor Guerin and Michael Gonsenhauser on October 21, 2023 in the church sanctuary.
- Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded and carried to approve accepting Sandra Betts into membership by Letter of Transfer from Park Presbyterian Church.

Courtney Marr came up with an idea for our church to use at the local Canal Town Days event in September.

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to purchase a photo frame from 31Graphics to hang in front of the church for everyone to take their picture in to remember the event.
- Devotions were shared by Randy Kennard.

Ministry Team Reports

Worship Ministry Team – We want to celebrate Jack Millikin, owner of The Settlers Post, for 50 years of service to the church and community. We will have a card for the congregation to sign and take any donations and purchase a gift card for Jack. They are also checking into any problems getting to church during Canal Town Days.

Fellowship Ministry Team - They will hold the church picnic on September 24th.

Deacons Ministry Team -They helped delivery 22 cupcakes to shut ins in celebration of Reverend Dr. Nancy J. Farrells 40th anniversary of her ordination. They will be splitting up the prayer list between members of the team so Sandy McMenamin doesn't have to do it all. They are meeting with HoDong to go over our prayer list.

Mission Ministry Team -They are supporting a mission in south Africa. They will have a presentation about this mission for the congregation. The Weekend Wellness Program will continue in a little different format. One Great Hour of Sharing will be in October. Cassie Hughes will lead this mission.

Finance Ministry Team – answered questions from session members.

CE Ministry Team – VBS was a huge success. On Sept 21st from 6-8 pm Patty Dlugosh will hold a CPR/First Aid session in Fellowship Hall.

Property Ministry Team -the new boiler will be installed in September, will place a combination lock on the financial secretary's office, checking into what can be done so NYSEG can get into the church to read the meter. Looking into getting a new laptop for the Sunday School director.

Presbytery - HoDong was officially approved as our new pastor, the next meeting in Sept. will be held in person in Elmira.

Emily Hunt will do devotions at the next meeting.

HoDong is hoping to have his installation on the 12th of November. I will let the Presbytery know this date so it can be approved.

- Motion made by Susan Leonard seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 8:30 PM.

Janet Manktelow
Clerk

Worship Minutes August 24, 2023

Present: MaryBeth, Alicia, Sue, Joan, Carol, Sharon, HoDong, Courtney

Excused: Linda

Lighting the Christ Candle

- Thank you's from Sue- for helping with ushers, readers, elders, etc. Sharon- geraniums, Courtney- wreaths & slides
- Canaltown Days September 17th- hymn sing? Parking issues/ Alicia and Sue, Tent and get the word out, Courtney's selfie idea.
- Suggestion: Bringing in newer more contemporary hymns
- Joan: Busy bags for kids in worship
- Kids table in the sanctuary? Talk with Christian Ed.
- Reception for pulpit supply pastors? Mugs with candy or flowers or coffee? Sharon will see about shipping cost.
- Ho Dong's Installation date TBD.
- HoDong-
 - Bell to start service for personal confession/prayers- thoughts?
 - Shorten length of organ music? Prelude, offering, and postlude. More conversation is needed. Anyone in worship to lead hymns with a mic? Choir?
 - Brief visitor's cards?
 - Bold colored prayer cards in offering plate, then read with Prayers of the People?
 - Sermons: sometimes lectionary, sometimes a series with appropriate decorations

Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 12th at 3:15 pm.

Closed with prayer.

Worship Team Minutes—Sept. 12, 2023

Present: Joan Durfey, Alicia Lynch, Sharon Marr, Pastor Ho Dong Hwang, Sue Leonard

Absent: Carol Sloan, Linda Williamson, Courtney Marr, Mary Beth LaBerge

Opened with prayer and Christ candle

Canaltown Days Sunday: Discussed the hymn sing, parking and access to parking lot

Busy bags: Joan has gathered items to put in bags for kids to use during worship. Will soon be ready to distribute as kids enter the sanctuary.

Gifts for pulpit supply: Sharon will investigate ideas and costs.

Choir: Would any of our former choir members be interested in singing during worship again? Would they consider it if it wasn't every Sunday or if it was only one hymn each time? Would one of them lead the choir or could we get a student from Eastman? Would it help if the choir folks stayed in the pews and came forward when it was time to sing? We will investigate further.

"Come, meet our pastor": Courtney submitted an idea from a friend's church. An open house with cider and donuts before and after Sunday worship. That idea evolved into Ho Dong helping to pass out the candy during Halloween on Main Street (date to be confirmed). Inside the bag would be an invitation for the family to join us the following day for cider, donuts and worship.

More conversation needed. (**Update: Relayed the idea to Cim, who was very positive about it. She thinks that the date is different this year and will get back to us.)

Items from Ho Dong:

- Asked for feedback regarding worship services so far. All comments were positive. He welcomes comments and suggestions.
- He needs a clock/watch for pulpit to check the time in worship. Sharon will get something.
- A 3 week series will begin on 9/24, "New Beginning". Randy is working on decorations for the theme.
- Would love to have another, higher placed cross other than the one on the communion table. A banner? More discussion and research needed.
- Will be asking Session approval for taking Sunday 12/31 off.

Next meeting date to be determined. Depending on which weekend Halloween on Main Street is scheduled, we might need to meet sooner than our usual 2nd Tuesday.

Closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Leonard

Our Prayer Concerns (updated September 20, 2023)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Beverly Mikolon (Fran Storm's sister)

Family & Friends of William H. Huling (father of Rev. Dr. Cynthia Huling Hummel)

Family & Friends of Ryan DePuy (requested by Randy Kennard)

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, Wes Barager, Jane Becker, Sarah Carone, Joyce Clark, Ed Cole, Tracy D'Arduini & Linda Pulcini, Jacquie DeBrine, Graham DeMeyers, Sandy Desassure, Irene Fadden, Bette Ferraro, Jessica Fox, Jonathan Groff, Linda Hanna, Laurie Harvey, Pastor Ho Dong, Mary Kay Jones, Gary Lashway, Julie Maragus, Angelo Mascioli, Deb Merla, Mary Greenlaw-Meyer, Joyce Oster, Terri & Triston Parsons, Bob Pringle, Gail Rapp, David Sanford, Courtney Sears, Madalyn Rose Senn, Fran Storm, Amy VanOpdorp

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

Others for whom we continue to pray:

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, 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, Connie West

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton, Dorothy Schlee

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.



OCTOBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1 World Communion & Cereal Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	2	3 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	4	5	6	7
8 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am worship service Commissioning of the Sunday School Teachers	9	10 10 am Deacons 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Fellowship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	11 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	12	13	14
15 One Great Hour of Sharing 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	16	17 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	18 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	19	20 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal FH	21 1 pm Wedding Taylor Guerin & Michael Gonsenhauser
22 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am worship service	23 6-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	24 3--8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	25 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	26 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale	27 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale	28 9 am to 11 am Rummage Sale 11 am to 1 pm Tear Down
29 Western Horizons Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Potluck Luncheon	30	31 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room				



NOVEMBER 2023

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