

April 9, 2021

The Boulder Knoll Scroll

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Reconnect After Covid

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Pastor Kelly's message - "Why do we gather together?"
- ◆ Update on Pastor Kelly's Installation
- ◆ "Reaching Out In The Time Of COVID" - a member tells their story
- ◆ Church After COVID - Why Bother Going Back?
- ◆ Updates on our West Pres Kids and Youth
- ◆ Much More!



March 28, 2021

Westminster Reopens Doors to In-Person Worship On Palm Sunday

**Reclaim
Restore
Reconnect
Reflect
Renew
Revive
All of you!**



Grace and peace to you Westminster!

I am enjoying getting to know you and am looking forward to the coming months where I can meet many more of WPC's friends and members. I feel the ways that Covid has shaped our getting-to-know-one-another into a more measured process rather than all at once. At the same time we are also renegotiating what church means and what is the best way to go about gathering. Sometimes I like to say that we are 're-constituting the church' more than we are simply re-opening it. All together we are sorting through the mixed reality of some vaccinated, others not, cases rising in some places, not in others, social distancing inside versus outside, eating at a restaurant versus eating at a family picnic while the picture continues to shift week-in and week-out. We are not only navigating this technical side of things but we are also brokering new definitions of church, faith, and collective life. This week we will shift our Sunday morning study from Lent and Easter to the early church and utilize the stories in Acts to help us clarify what the body of Christ is meant to be in the first place.

Why do we even gather at all? One of our 20th century theologians put it this way:

"It belongs to the function of the Church, then, to enter into history in the service of reconciliation, to live out its divine life in the midst of the world's dividedness, and by living as well as witnessing, to bring humanity into the fellowship of healing and peace with God." (T.F. Torrance)

On a separate note, I wanted to give you a brief picture of what goes on during the week in-between Sundays. I communicate regularly with Session about vision casting/finances/governance, with the staff about weekly and monthly planning, with the re-opening and worship teams about hybrid services, and with the Deacons about care for the church. This is not an exhaustive list but a little slice of a week in the life of the pastor. I like to keep an open door/email/phone approach so if something is on your mind, please reach out and let me know.

Ever onward as God's kingdom pursues us.

Pastor Kelly

Congregational Life

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE:

We hereby announce that a VERY BRIEF BUT IMPORTANT congregational meeting will be held via Zoom at 11:45 on April 25 for the purpose of electing our church officers including Deacons, Elders and Nominating Committee members.

We will vote and then congratulate these fine dedicated members who have agreed to accept leadership roles to guide us into the unknown of our future. We have set this time to allow anyone attending any service that day to be able to join us.

You are welcome to join us via any mobile device or computer with your cameras on or off, so if you're still in your pajamas, we'll never know! If your camera is off, just be sure you know how to make your vote known using the "reactions" button.

So put it on your calendars: April 25 at 11:45 via Zoom. You will finish the worship service and then log onto the Zoom meeting. It will be truly short...so don't come late or you might miss it! The link will be sent to you in an e-mail as well as being posted on the church website.

EMBRACING OUR NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

We are inviting the **ORDAINED ELDERS AND DEACONS** in the congregation to 'lay hands' on our newly ordained and installed elders and deacons in a Covid-19 safe manner.



Starting April 18th, and for the following 3 weeks, we will create **RED** paper cutouts of our hands with blessings written on them. They will be assembled into stoles for the new elders and deacons to wear during the installation service on May 16, 2021.

Pre-cut handprints are available in the narthex through May 9, when all handprints must be in. Take one or two and write your name and a blessing if you like. If you prefer to cut out your own at home, just trace around your hand on **RED** paper (or color it in if you only have white paper) then cut it out and write your name and a blessing on it. Then bring it or mail it to the church. All writing should be on ONE Side, as they will be glued to the stole.

All completed handprints should be at the church by May 9.

Contact [Carol Richmond](#) with any questions.

Congregational Life



SAVE THE DATE!

We will have our special service of Installation for Pastor Kelly on Sunday May 16 at 1 pm. It will be a hybrid service, so if you want to attend in person, watch for details of how to sign up. Whether you attend in-person or join the service from your home please help us form a warm welcoming welcome to her on this day!

More details to come as the date approaches.



THANK YOU, BRIAN!

Many thanks to Brian Battaile for building our lovely new offering box. His talent is much appreciated!

SOMETIMES WE NEED TO
DISCONNECT IN ORDER TO
RECONNECT WITH WHAT
MATTERS.



CARING FOR CREATION



For the past 3 weeks, the Mission Peace Eco/Justice team has offered many activities to help you and your family explore, learn and celebrate our awe-filled creation. The website has links to every week, which will be available through April 22nd (National Earth Day).

Upcoming events include:

- ◆ April 18th Big Issues: Local Focus—
"KISS THE GROUND "
 - ◆ Youth tree planting and drawings for water and energy conservation gifts!
- Please watch the website and weekly bulletin for specifics.

BIG ISSUES: Local Focus

Join Us on April 18th @ 6:00 PM

In conjunction with the Caring for Creation events this spring, Big Issues / Local Focus presents:

"KISS THE GROUND "

This presentation is brought to us by Sacred Ground 2021 / Oregon Interfaith Program. The video "Kiss the Ground" will be shown as part of the presentation.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom. For more information, please email [Christine Speak](mailto:Christine.Speak@church.org) and look for the Zoom link on the church website.

Spiritual healing occurs as we begin to consciously reconnect with our essential being - the wise, loving, powerful, creative entity that we are at our core.

- Shakti Gawain

Reconnecting at Church

Why Bother Coming Back?

"It's Sunday morning. I sit by the gas fireplace snuggled up in a warm blanket, relishing the quiet. Before long, the rest of the family will stir, and we'll have a choice to make:

Get ready to go to church?

Livestream the service at home?

Watch it later?

Or skip it altogether?"

..."Attending church is more complicated now. Some churches require pre-registration, masks, and hand sanitizer. Most have chairs spaced apart or pews blocked off to ensure social distancing. Some won't let you sing. Many have cancelled programming for children. And frankly, with no handshakes and no visiting in the lobby—in one door and out another—why bother going?

During the stay-at-home orders, many churches stepped up to the challenge of livestreaming services, investing in equipment and training to foster a sense of continuity. Churches that did this well are facing a new challenge: making the case to return to in-person services."

- From the article "*Church After COVID—Why Bother Going Back*" by Carmen Joy Imes / Christianity Today Magazine

* * * * *

On March 28, 2021 WPC began hybrid worship services at 9AM and 10:30AM. As we rebuild our weekly Sabbath together, the Reopening Team and the Worship Committee are discerning best ways to continue the roll-out of Sunday services. They will next meet on April 19. As the families of the church consider when they might return, please take some time to provide feedback on the form we've added to the website. In the long run, the goal is to resume worshipping together, as one community of faith... acknowledging the importance of *embodied worship*.

*"Something happens when we are physically present together that is simply not possible when we log in online....**My absence diminishes what Christ can accomplish in and through the church, while my presence is a tangible means of participation in the kingdom.** Ultimately, it's not about 'what I get out of it.' The church cannot fully accomplish her purposes in the world when I withhold my presence. Physical participation matters."*

Click [here](#) to read the full article "*Church After COVID—Why Bother Going Back*" by Carmen Joy Imes. It may be time to consider getting up, getting dressed and re-joining in-person worship!

(If you would like a printed copy of the article, contact Jean at the church office (503) 364-3327).

* * * * *



I want to thank all the people of Westminster who sent me cards, made phone calls and meals to help in my recovery from my heart attack. Your well wishes and prayers have buoyed my days of recovery. I am doing better every day and feel good. Looking forward to the day we can all be together again in church.

- Pat Randle



Thank you so much for your prayers and condolences. It makes such a difference having the support of my church family and friends.

Lorna Motte



**American
Red Cross**

***A LETTER FROM OUR LOCAL
RED CROSS.***

Thank you for being a part of our team.

We think you're amazing. You've shown you care not just about people within your community, but about people you may never meet. It takes a special person to take the step of *doing* something. And you've done that. Thank you.

Generous donors and volunteers, like you, enable us to help families rebuild their lives in the wake of a disaster; train communities in first aid and CPR; provide pediatric cancer patients with life-saving blood; work with our nation's military families; and much more. We serve our communities with honor, gratitude and love.

THE NEXT BLOOD DRIVE:

Wednesday, May 19 from 1PM—6PM

Contact Sharon White (503) 930-2561 or Matt Hale (503) 559-3577



LIFE PAX - Reminder

A new batch of FREE Life Pax are ready for pickup. Call Marje Kmetz (210-218 -741 or 503-689-1114) to arrangement for pick-up either at the church or Marje's home. Thank you so much for your support.!"



CHARITY CIRCLE
APRIL 27TH

On April 27th Charity members will "e" discuss Lesson Eight, "God Laments" from PW/Horizons Bible Study "Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." Members will continue to exchange thoughts about the lesson via e-mail as virus concerns prevent our meeting in the usual format at the church. We look forward to the fall when, hopefully, we'll be able to meet in person at the church!

For information call Bonnie 503-364-802 or Dolores 503-364-6646.

Westminster Book Club - April 28, 2021

Connie Sims has invited the club to meet April 28th 10:00 a.m. at her home! The club will review "The Kurdish Bike" by Alesia Lightbourne. The novel follows the true story of an American teacher who takes a job in northern Iraq in 2010!

For information, e-mail Dolores Byrnes, winbyrn@comcast.net or call 503-364-6646.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SPONSORED EASTER FLOWERS THIS YEAR.

SPONSOR	IN MEMORY OF
Deanie Anderson	Peter Anderson, Husband
Dwane Brenneman	Le Brenneman, Wife
Jennifer Brundidge	Larry Brundidge, Husband
Marlene Buker	Jim Buker, Husband
Dolores Byrnes	Bonnie Finley, Friend
Jan Carlson	Daryl & Meleece Carlson, Parents
Steve & Ellen Chambers	Parents
Doris Friday & Barbara Friday	Walt Friday, Husband and Father
Betty Hohbach	Dale Hohbach, Husband
Bert Kersh & Myra Brand-Kersh	Barbara Kersh, Wife / Malcolm Brand, Husband
Katie & Bill Nelson	Roy & Blessing Proctor and Bill C. Nelson, Parents
Pam Schmidling	Lowery-Schmidling Family
Mary Snethen	Russ & Betty Wittmer
Darrell & Barbara Tallman	Scott Tallman
Toru & Susan Tanabe	Bruce & Rose Marie Marsh



Money is like politics. It’s not something we usually consider “polite conversation.” But what if people want to talk about money, but they haven’t yet experienced a safe and non-threatening environment? What if we’re going to talk about the things that matter most in life - like how money touches our careers, families, relationships, purpose, and how we see the world?

Mostly, what is the relationship between faith and money? How do we respond to God’s grace and the gift of life itself?

Six Weeks on Money is a digital course and group experience that we’re offering at Westminster because we believe God wants to transform your relationship with money.

- From scarcity to abundance.
- From debt to getting ahead.

From the fear of not enough to gratitude for what (and who) I have.

Along the way, we’ll “talk about money,” but we’ll do it in a way that is non-threatening and super practical. This is for all incomes, backgrounds, and generations.

Registration closes Sunday, April 11, so sign up today! You need to do two things. Register for the digital course itself with the discount code **saalemwest40** here: <https://start.sixweeksonmoney.com/courses/new-way-to-think-and-feel-about-money>. Then sign up to join us for the small group experience, which will take place on Sunday evenings beginning April 18. Do that here: <https://forms.gle/2EJnjBcYLg2E68gRA>.

NEW TESTAMENT STUDY SCHEDULE

For those of you following the New Testament Study Schedule, this month focuses on Peter, Thessalonians & 1 Corinthians. Our library has quite a variety of books and study guides such as *Easter from the Back Side*, *The Pastoral Epistles*, *Paul and the Corinthians* and we encourage you to take a few minutes to explore our other resources

Month	Scriptures	Month	Scriptures
January	Matthew 1-23	July	Ephesians 6, Revelations 1-22
February	Matthew 24-28, letters of John, Colossians, Jude, Luke 1-3	August	Titus, Philippians, Romans 1-15
March	Luke 4-24	September	Romans 16, John 1-20
April	Peter, Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians 1-6	October	John 21, James, 2 Corinthians, Galatians 1-4
May	1 Corinthians 7-16, Acts 1-13	November	Galatians 5-6, Hebrews, Philemon, 1 Timothy 1-5
June	Acts 14-28, Ephesians 1-5	December	Timothy, Mark

CONNECTING WITH GOD AND OTHERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

This month we continue a series that shines a spotlight on how some of our members have connected with God and others during the pandemic. If you have a story you'd like to share, please send it to Bev Mayhew (Email: play8t8@gmail.com).

Women's Bible Study

I have been part of the Wednesday morning women's Bible study since 2006. It was started around 2000 by a group of women at the church who wanted to meet weekly, and has continued as members joined, left, and passed on.

When the pandemic hit we could no longer meet at church. We stayed separated, and truly missed our weekly connection. In early summer we began to meet on my patio, the eight of us masked and spread out pretty well in our chairs. Our study continued and our connections with God and each other deepened.

When the forest fires brought us so much smoke and "stuff" in the air, we stopped for a short time, but then got permission to move back into the building.

I know in my heart that this group, now 10 of us, has brought me closer to God, and I am very grateful for these women.

- Lynnea Lyman



GOD HAS PROVIDED

In a time of global pandemic,
God has provided - *Genesis 22:14*
comfort - *John 14:1*
refuge - *Psalms 91:1*
endurance - *Exodus 14:12*

In a time of suffering,
God has provided - *Psalms 27:1*
compassion - *Psalms 23:1-3*
assurance - *Mark 4:35-41*
peace - *2 Thessalonians 3:16*

In a time of tremendous loss,
God has provided - *Isaiah 41:13*
a way of blessing - *Numbers 6:24-26*
a way of serving - *Ephesians 3:16-19*
a way of loving - *Mark 12:29-31*

In a time of ongoing turmoil,
God has provided - *Psalms 103:1-6*
a vision of eternity - *Isaiah 55:10-13*
a river of hope - *Lamentations 3:21-24*
a foundation that cannot be shaken. - *Luke 22:19-20*

Hallelujah. - *Revelation 19:6*
Amen. - *2 Corinthians 1:20-22*

"I have been out in it [COVID] all year working in mental health. The presence of God has truly been my guide through it all. I wrote this poem in response."

- Karen Freed 3-15-21



VBS 2021 IS A "GO!"

Save the date for 2021 Vacation Bible School—August 16-20! Watch for more information in coming months.

THE GREAT EASTER EGG HUNT OF 2021

On Saturday, April 3rd, over 50 WestPres kids and parents joined together to play games, hunt for eggs and eat candy - and celebrated being together again!





Send Our Youth Notes Of Encouragement!

Hi, Westminster Friends!

We are getting ready to send notes of encouragement and care packages to our college-age students. If you can write a note of encouragement to any of the students on our list and drop them off in Vik's box in the main office, that would be awesome! We are also collecting light weight snacks, Starbucks or Dutch Bros gift cards, and fun pencils/pens/highlighters/etc. to include in these care packages as well. If you would like to donate anything to the project, please drop items off at the church office by Sunday, April 18th. Blank cards and student lists are available in the narthex as well. You can leave written cards in the narthex in the basket or put them in Vik's box in the main office. Thank you for helping make our youth alumni's spring term brighter!

1. Becky Adams (Chemeketa Community College)
2. Jackson Bailey (Gap Year)
3. Madison Barnes-Nelson (Gonzaga University-Graduates May 2021)
4. Thomas Burney (Montana State University-Graduates Dec 2021)
5. Chrysta Friday (Working)
6. Braden Gardner (Oregon State University-Graduates Mar 2021)
7. Nathaniel Groves (Chemeketa Community College)
8. Peter Hammitt (Working)
9. Alex Liechty (Oregon State University-Graduates Jun 2021)
10. Colin McLean (Working/Chemeketa Community College)
11. Andrew Melting (Linn Benton Community College)
12. Julia Melting (Western Oregon University)
13. Taylor Monismith (Oregon State University)
14. A.J. Preston (Working)
15. Raelee Rohan (Boise State University/Working)
16. Meije Smith (University of Oregon)
17. Audra Sproed (Walla Walla University)
18. Olivia Sproed (Walla Walla University)
19. Hayley Wargnier (Southern New Hampshire University)
20. Emily Wood (Lower Columbia College/Working)
21. Alec Smith (Chemeketa Community College/Working)
22. Dakota Morales (Chemeketa Community College/Working)
23. Elaine Sept (Chemeketa Community College/Working)
24. Rachel Jimenez (Gap Year)
25. Josh Nishimura (Oregon State University)
26. Mikayla Whiteley (Oregon State University)
27. Alexie Rowland (University of Oregon)
28. Alistair Heringer (Oregon State University / U.S. Navy)
29. Ben Crall (Portland State University)

APRIL / MAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 11 9AM Trad. Worship - In Person & Online 9:45AM Sunday Sch - On Zoom 10:30AM Contemp. In Person & Online Noon— MH Youth 6:00 PM HS Youth	APRIL 12	APRIL 13 9AM Nominating 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Story 3PM Budget & Finance 5PM Bill Choir 6PM Fine Arts 7PM Stewardship	APRIL 14 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 2PM Bells Class 4:15PM Staff Mtg. 5:30PM Worship Team 7PM Family Min. 7PM Personnel 7:30PM Live 4 Today	APRIL 15 9:30AM Tea w/Jesus 5:30PM Worship Team 5:30PM MPEJ Mtg 6PM Youth Zoom 6:30PM Choir 7PM Bldg & Grounds	APRIL 16	APRIL 17
APRIL 18 9AM Trad. Worship In Person & Online 9:45AM Sunday Sch 10:30AM Contemp. In Person & Online Noon— MH Youth 6:00 PM Big Issues/ Local Focus 6:00 PM HS Youth	APRIL 19	APRIL 20 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir	APRIL 21 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 2PM Bells Class 4:15PM Staff Mtg. 5:30PM Worship Tm 7:00PM Session Mtg 7:30PM Live 4 Today	APRIL 22 6PM Youth Zoom 6:30PM Choir	APRIL 23	APRIL 24
APRIL 25 9AM Trad. Worship - In Person & Online 9:45AM Sunday Sch - On Zoom 10:30AM Contemp. In Person & Online 11:45AM Congregational Mtg—Zoom Noon— MH Youth 6:00 PM HS Youth	APRIL 26	APRIL 27 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 1:30PM Charity Circle 5:00 PM Bell Choir	APRIL 28 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 10AM Book Club 2PM Bells Class 4:15PM Staff Mtg. 5:30PM Worship Team 7:00PM Session Mtg 7:30PM Live 4 Today	APRIL 29 1:30PM Stephen Min. 6PM Youth Zoom 6:30PM Choir	APRIL 30	MAY 1
MAY 2 9AM Trad. Worship - In Person & Online 9 AM Youth Geranium Sale 9:45AM Sunday Sch - On Zoom 10:30AM Contemp. In Person & Online Noon— MH Youth 6:00 PM HS Youth	MAY 3	MAY 4 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 PM Bell Choir	MAY 5 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 2PM Bells Class 4:15PM Staff Mtg. 5:30PM Worship Team 7:30PM Live 4 Today	MAY 6 9:30AM Tea w/Jesus 5:00 PM Worship Com 6PM Youth Zoom 6:30PM Choir 7:30PM Live 4 Today	MAY 7	MAY 8
MAY 9 MOTHER'S DAY 9AM Trad. Worship - In Person & Online 9:45AM Sunday Sch - On Zoom 10:30AM Contemp. In Person & Online Noon— MH Youth 6:00 PM HS Youth	MAY 10	MAY 11 9AM Nominating 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 5PM Bell Choir 6PM Fine Arts Com 7PM Stewardship	MAY 12 9:30AM Women's Bible Study 11AM Outreach Com 2PM Bells Class 4:15PM Staff Mtg. 5:30PM Worship Tm 7PM Family Min 7PM Personnel 7:30PM Live 4 Today	MAY 13 10AM Children's Com 3PM Budget & Fin 6PM Youth Zoom 6:30PM Choir 7PM Bldg. & Grnds 7:30PM Live 4 Today	MAY 14	MAY 15

Prayer Requests

JOYS & BLESSINGS:

OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO:

- ◆ Nancy Klarr, as she continues chemotherapy treatments.
- ◆ Cindi & Bruce Chinnock's niece, Jennifer Russel, who has a new brain tumor and renewed growth in other tumors.
- ◆ Please pray for the Chinnock's friend's son-in-law, Sean Hoffert. He has very aggressive cancer which has spread. During his surgery, he suffered a major heart attack. Now he faces cardiac rehab, chemo and radiation. Also prayers for his wife and young daughter.
- ◆ Brenda Long asks prayers for her Aunt Robbie Lee who is going through treatment for tongue cancer and having a difficult time. Also please keep her uncle in our prayers as he cares for her.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER:

Tim Holsten; Bill Hruska; Duff Kannier, Mather's great-grandson, James Pratt and his parents; Linda & Dick Stephens; Cynthia Curran

- ◆ Daphne Russell (age 7), grandniece of Cindi & Bruce Chinnock, is slowly improving
- ◆ Sheila Powell and her husband Tom, as Tom continues to undergo treatment for cancer.

PLEASE SEND PRAY REQUEST UPDATES TO JEAN SEVERSON (jean@salemwestpres.org). We strive to keep the listing as current as possible, and rely on your ongoing assistance to do so. Thank you.

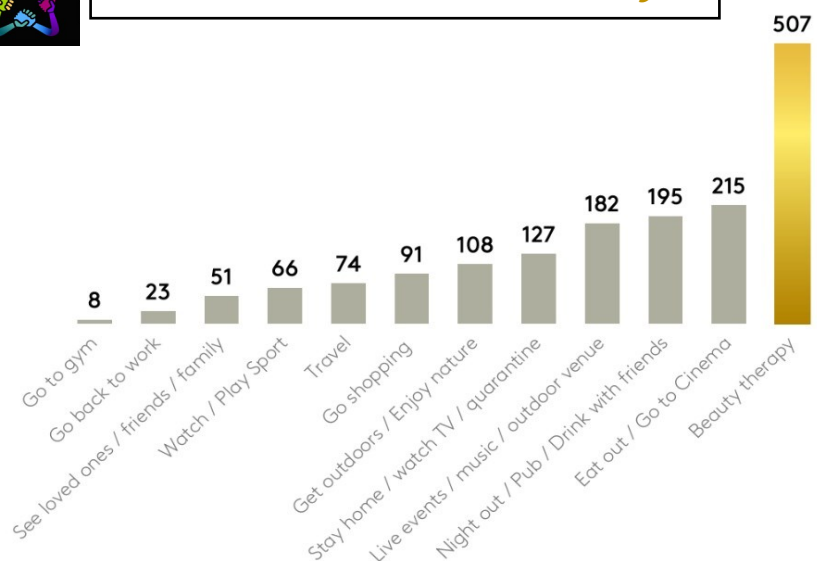
What are we looking forward to about life after the pandemic?

Our top priorities are to look good, eat and spend time with friends

Social Listening: 24th March – 30th March – English social media mentions in connection with what people are most looking forward to doing after COVID-19



Reconnect In Your Favorite Way!



Reprinted from Kantar.com

Contact Us

CHURCH STAFF/EMAILS

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Dir. of Praise Team: Ariana Recher

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday:

8:30am—4:00pm (at the moment)

Friday:

8:30am—1:00pm

Until such time as it's safe to bring our BKS production team back together, our newsletter will be online only.

Articles may be submitted directly to the church office or by email to:

jean@salemwestpres.org

