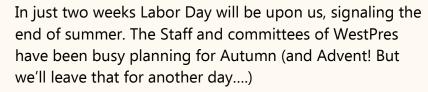
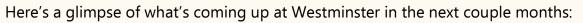
August 19, 2022

The Boulder Knoll Scroll

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church







LATE AUGUST

Sunday, August 21st Missionary Elmarie Parker will join us with an update on the work she

and her husband Scott are doing in the Middle East

Sunday August 28th Our services are OUTDOORS, with Rev. David Horn guest preaching.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, Sept 4 The last OUTDOOR services of 2022.

Sundays, Sept 11, 18 & 25 The Peaceful Practice Workshops return at 6:30PM

Sunday, Sept 18 Annual Youth Dinner at 5:00PM—everyone please come!

Monday, Sept 26 Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6PM

Tuesday Sept 27 Night of Music & Prayer (and possibly a chili feed!)

OCTOBER

Oct 13th-16th The Festival of Fine Arts
Oct 2nd & 9th New Member Classes





Greetings to all -

Although we are still in the warm and lazy days of summer, fall is starting to beckon us. The elders, deacons and staff have been working on what a joyful and sustainable 2023 looks like and will continue to work on this in the coming months. Budget and resource allocation discussions can heighten emotions as we wade into areas close and personal for many. Please have a measure of grace with one another as we seek joyful sustainability in these early considerations of the 2023 budget.

There are three major areas for the church to consider this fall. The first is theology-mission, the second is church organization, and the third is the economic engine. Each of these are calling the congregation to consider fresh possibilities that will support a more sustainable future. To remain unmoved in these key areas will likely create a less-than-sustainable trajectory in the years to come.

Some areas to consider:

- 1. Westminster has been exploring the Matthew 25 initiative throughout the summer, first through an educational lens in July and then through feedback sessions in August. The Matthew 25 initiative is a faithful and fresh expression of Christian praxis for the 21st century. It is not the only one by any means but it does capture many of the ways Christianity, the world, the church and even faith itself has changed in the past 25-50 years.
- 2. Different sizes of congregations allow for different kinds of focus areas. Westminster's membership and attendance patterns indicate that over the past 10 years the congregation has been transitioning from a mid-sized to a small church. Mid-sized churches tend to offer lots of different programs designed for specific ages and stages. Smaller churches tend to offer warm relationships where everyone knows one another. They both are wonderful expressions of God's work. At the moment, Westminster is living in both worlds and this can create competing expectations as to what 'church' means. In the next few months, one of our collective tasks will be to discern which expression, mid-sized or smaller, members and friends feel most called to live into.
- 3. The economic engine of the church has begun to migrate into some exciting areas as well. The first is the upcoming Pledge Drive which will kick-off in late October with a festive pancake breakfast. Please consider how you might financially support the work of Westminster with either a new pledge or by stepping up your current level of investment. In addition, the work of the newly-formed events committee has been getting the property, building and policies ready to host community events, weddings and related celebrations. It is wonderful to find ways to be a good neighbor, sharing our bounty and first fruits. A new partnership with Salem for Refugees is also in the works to utilize Winola house as part of Westminster's commitment to a hearth and home for all people. Finally, a new strategic planning team will begin meeting

Continued ----



in September to help guide the congregation in considering future possibilities and long range planning.

Stay tuned in September and October for opportunities for the congregation to weigh in on these areas and discern together the best way forward.

Thank you each for the energy and life you put into this faith community, allowing the sacred spirit to emerge and flourish.

Ever onward, Pastor Kelly

VISIT OR JOIN AN ONGOING SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY:

Pastor's Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning at 10:30 am both at the church and through Zoom (check home page for link). This study explores the following Sunday's sermon text.

Tea with Jesus meets every other Thursday morning at 9:30 am at the church.

Charity Circle meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm at the church and follows the Presbyterian Women's study, currently *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* (RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER).

COOKIES NEEDED!



Anyone who likes to bake cookies is invited to share them with the congregation at Coffee Hour. Bring cookies, brownies, muffins (any "finger foods") to church on Sundays and we'll put them out for folks at Coffee Hour.

Thanks!
The Fellowship Committee

THIS SUNDAY

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING AND DISCUSSION OF A SHORT DOCUMENTARY:

VIRGINIA'S CALLING

21 ST AUGUST AT 7:00 PM

A HURRICANE DISRUPTS A YOUNG CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN MOM'S PICTURE-PERFECT LIFE. FEELING BETRAYED BY GOD, SHE SPIRALS INTO DEEP DESPAIR. IN A MOMENT OF CRISIS, A PHONE CALL FROM AN UNLIKELY SPIRITUAL ADVISOR LEADS HER BACK TO GOD, ENABLING HER TO LEARN HIS TRUE PURPOSE FOR HER LIFE. HER CALLING SETS HER AND HER FAMILY ON AN UNEXPECTED AND EXCITING NEW PATH.

POPCORN AND LEMONADE PROVIDED

A COOPERATIVE EVENT SPONSORED BY CITY CAMP

AND THE MISSION PEACE ECO JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Worship at Westminster





Are You Member-Curious?

Are you looking for more information about what it means to be a member of Westminster? Or perhaps you've made a decision and are ready to take the next step. Either way, our New Member Class is for you!

Pastor Kelly will lead a series of two classes on October 2nd and 9th at 11:30AM. If you would like to participate, email Pastor Kelly: (pastorkelly@salemwestpres.org) or contact the office: (jean@salemwestpres.org).

SESSION UPDATE

Your Westminster Session met on Wednesday, August 17th along with members of stewardship and the budget/finance team.

- The elders received training on Westminster's GEM gifts, endowments and memorials including an overview of the generous gifts that were given in 2021. Session then took a close look at Westminster's economic engine including pledging, reserve levels, other income sources as well as new possibilities. Session is aiming to have a joyful and sustainable 2023 budget in place (at least provisionally) by October. You will be hearing more about future planning this fall when the Pledge Drive begins.
- Session also approved the Building & Grounds team to explore partnership with Salem for Refugees on the use of Winola house.
- In addition, the worship committee will spend some time in the coming months exploring future worship times through focus groups, committee discussions, and surveys.

Thank you for your ongoing support and energy. Your session welcomes your questions, feedback and comments at any time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Your clerk, Sandy McLean

Worship at Westminster

Matthew 25 Exploration—Summaries



Our first Mathew 25 Exploration on Sunday evening, July 17th explored the Pillar of Dismantling Structural Racism and as facilitated by Michelle Hare. We received two handouts including 1) Bound Together for Good: Lessons for White Christians from the Black Church and 2) Dismantling Structural Racism including a 21 Day Racial Justice Challenge and resource list. Together we watched four videos prior to our discussion. We learned that racism in the US is deeply embedded in our life and history and is not primarily about individual prejudice but is a socially constructed system that leads to people being treated differently whether in-

tentionally or unintentionally.

One video was about a church grappling with the new painful knowledge that the financial gift that allowed the church to be built many generations before, also restricted the church to be for whites only membership. Another was about four churches that were of shrinking membership who chose to combine as one integrated congregation led by a pastor of color and how true community was built gradually and painfully at times. White members spoke about how they learned to recognize their own bias and personal growth through the process

We discussed our own painful Oregon history of racial laws at the state and local levels that allowed for discrimination and red-lining in our own neighborhoods and touched on how we might learn to recognize our biases and privilege in order to support recognition and dismantling of racial inequities.

Our second Matthew Exploration took place on July 24th. Systemic poverty refers to the economic exploitation of people who are poor through laws, policies, practices and systems that perpetuate their impoverished status. We live in a world where not all have equal access to education, transportation, fresh food, financial resources, clean air, water or healthy environments, employment with a living wage, health care, benefits, citizenship and affordable housing. This lack of access creates generational cycles of poverty and a racial wealth gap that are systemic in nature.

We watched videos about churches in the US that are addressing this pillar. The most memorable to me was the church in LA where a group of women started visiting the homeless camp in the area and got to know the people. They helped arrange appointments for mental health care, they helped fill out forms for housing. They provided tangible loving acts to make a difference for these people and saw people move from homeless to "housed"!

Our group shared lots of ideas- in many ways this is the easiest of the pillars because many acts are built in to our congregational life, but the emphasis was on looking to impact those root causes. Ideas generated: community garden to feed those in need, exploring building use for programs like SFR and Family Promise (IHN).

Worship at Westminster



The third Matthew 25 was on July 31st and we explored Building Congregational Vitality. PCUSA's informative website states, "...a community's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. Congregational vitality is evident in a worshiping community when its structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God . . ." The handout, "7 Marks of Congregational Vitality" brought more detail to how to determine our current level of church vitality and these benchmarks give us tools for spiritual examination.

when we think of vitality of a congregation, we often think that it is based on membership, but it really goes far beyond that. This pillar helps us pave the way to seeing how we might revitalize our church; how we might make our church relevant. In one of the four videos we watched, the question was asked, "Who would miss our church if we went away?" We might examine our current programs and determine if we are just serving ourselves, or if we're looking beyond the church doors, and being actively engaged in purposeful mission in the local community and throughout the world. It asks us to examine our spiritual strength and how well we joyfully go forth to share our love—to put faith into action! It also asks us to empower every member to discover their own calling and gifts in order to go forth and serve. It asks us to open our doors and hearts to all people, and to build relationships that model God's love.

One of the videos shared how one church started with the pillar Building Congregational Vitality, but because of their mission goals, the focus naturally expanded to include Eradicating Systemic Poverty. In one of the Sunday evening discussions, it was brought up that if we were to focus on eradicating systemic poverty or dismantling structural racism, we might then be building a more vitalized congregation. That is an interesting thought, isn't it?



Come one, come all! We are inviting all Westminster members, friends, and visitors to join our Chancel Choir and/or Handbell Choir starting this September.

No experience needed...only a love of music! Groups rehearse weekly and provide music during our 9AM Traditional Service. Rehearsal times are on Thursdays at 5:00PM [Handbell Choir] and 6:30PM [Chancel Choir].

Email Jeffrey (<u>music@salemwestpres.org</u>) with any questions or if you are interested in joining! First rehearsal starts on September 8th!

Congregational Life



THE BACKPACK GIVING TREE IS HERE!

Our backpack tree is up and there are still many tags left! Pick a tag, buy a backpack and start gathering school supplies for a needy student in the community (Grades K-2, 3-5, & 6-8). Each tag describes the grade level and supplies needed for that grade. Turn in filled backpacks **with the tag attached** by August 31st.

For those who don't enjoy shopping, we also join in the Assistance League's "Operation Backpack" program by collecting money to help them buy school supplies. Look for the collection box by the tree if you would rather donate money by writing a check to "Assistance League".



Initiative Petition 17 Update IP17, the gun safety initiative endorsed by Presbytery of the Cascades, received enough valid signatures and will appear on the November ballot in Oregon. You can read a recent update here: Religious groups came together in Oregon to get gun control on the next ballot.

See <u>Reduction of Gun Violence Act - IP 17 — Lift Every Voice Oregon - Reduce Gun Violence</u> for a summary of the initiative. On that same website, you can also find the full text of the initiative. We encourage you to be an informed voter this fall. This will appear on the ballot as Measure 114.



We want to thank everyone that has prayed for Terry and sent cards during his extended illness and after his passing. And thank you to all that help with his Celebration of Life Service. We have felt so much love and support throughout this difficult time.

Westminster is truly a special Church!

- Betty Fennell and Family

In Memoriam—Roger Budke

There will be a gathering to remember our friend Roger Budke on Sunday, August 28th. The event will take place from 1PM—3PM at the Pavilion at Riverside Park.

We hope you can join Janet and the Budke family for this special remembrance.

Congregational Life

33RD ANNUAL ART FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

On July 12, the scholarship committee of the Westminster Festival of Fine Arts hosted a brief social get-together and awarded scholarships (\$1,000 each) to two outstanding '22 graduates of South Salem High School.

Both Autumn Ditzel and Megan Whitney have been active in the Westminster Youth for many years, and achieved high academic success at South. The following explains why we were so proud to make this award to each of the young women!



Autumn Ditzel graduated with an International Baccalaureate Diploma and a 4.0 GPA. She is headed to Corvallis this fall and will be an outstanding contributor to the incoming frosh group at O.S.U.

Megan Whitney graduated from South with a 3.5+ GPA and is attending Willamette University this fall. She also took several IB classes and was an important part of the water polo and swim programs at South, helping to keep those programs afloat during the difficult pandemic times. She was also a member of our PNC, representing the Youth, and as such participated in the call to Pastor Kelly Wadsworth.

Both girl's pictures will be displayed at October's Festival of Fine Arts.



Pastor Kelly with Autumn & Megan



Scholarship winners with Sheila Powell, Chair of the Fine Arts Committee, and Jay & Sue Morris, committee members.

Congregational Life



When the fall weather arrives, think about the church grounds

During our Spring Clean-Up & Planting, we planted one gladiolus bulb as an experiment—and it produced beautiful results!

As the cool weather arrives and you clean your flower beds, please watch for summer and fall bulbs that need to be thinned, and consider saving them for

WestPres for our Spring planting.

Our beds have secure access to water and sunlight—we just need more flowers to fill out our display; we love our spring bulbs and would like to increase the summer and fall color too.

Thank you for including us in your gardening plans!

- Buildings and Grounds Committee



Thank You For Your Donations—Let's Do It Again!

The July Blood Drive was very successful, and we are grateful to all who donated!

The next blood drive is scheduled for: Monday, September 26th from 1:00PM—6:00PM Contact Bill Nelson to schedule a donation time:

(503) 581-5261 or email: bnelson@pacificomm.net
OR go to: https://www.redcrossblood.org/

Write a Postcard Today—Or Sunday—Or Any Time!!

It seems everyone agrees our "postcards for those on the prayer list" is a GREAT IDEA! *But very few folks* are stopping by the table in the Narthex and writing cards (like maybe one person a week...) This is a wonderful opportunity to send much-appreciated personal notes to our friends on the prayer list. Postcards are provided and the church addresses and mails them. We hope more members will take a moment to send a word of encouragement!



Participate!



WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH
6:00 pm
The Olive Garden
1302 Lancaster Dr. NE

Please RSVP (so we have an idea of how many to set up for) to Sue Ray: raysu1@comcast.net or Barbara Friday: ewokfriday@aol.com.



WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB, AUGUST 24, 2022

At once heartbreaking and uplifting,

Westminster Book Club's selection for August, "The Many Daughters of Afong Moy" by Jamie Ford connects women who are generations and worlds apart. The possibility of inherited mental illness being the binding theme.

Connie Sims will host the club at 10 a.m. August 24.

For info call Dolores Byrnes 503-364-6646 or "e" at winbyrn@comcast.net.



Charity Circle –In September, 2022

Watch this space next month for our September meeting date. Charity Circle will begin the new PW/Horizons Bible Study, CELEBRATING SAB-BOTH —Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight!

For additional info contact: Bonnie Shaughnessy-Smith <u>bonshon@aol.com</u> or Dolores Winter-Byrnes <u>winbyrn@comcast.net</u>



Back to school blessing for the 2022-23 school year

A prayer by Teri McDowell Ott

God, bless our children, and the parents who make them pose for pictures before the first day of school. Bless all our children, climbing on school buses, backpacks heavy with hope, anxious for acceptance, needy for nurturing.



Bless our children, who aren't as innocent as we'd like; our children for whom active shooter drills are routine and thoughts and prayers aren't enough.

God, bless our parents, who have laughed, played, traveled, mediated, intervened, fed and nurtured all ... summer ... long parents who are ready and not-so ready for summer days to end and school to resume.



Bless our parents who pack backpacks, make lunches, create schedules and to-do lists for toddlers and teenagers difficult to get out the morning door.

Bless them with patience – grace for themselves and their children.

Bless them with long memories of these days that pass too quickly when not noticed.

God, bless our teachers, school administrators and support staff – those to whom we entrust our children all year long.

those to whom we entrust our children all year long.

Bless them with appreciation for their invaluable work. Bless them with needed supplies they don't have to pay for out of pocket.

Bless them with new year excitement, toothy grins, and students who love to learn.

Bless them with the kind of joy that comes when you know you are meeting society's needs through your chosen profession.

Gather us, O God, around our children, parents, teachers and school staff as this new school year begins. Anoint us with your grace, fill us with your love, inspire us for your service. Bless us as a community, guided by your Spirit, called to care for and nurture the young, for the sake of their future, and ours. Amen.







PEACEFUL PRACTICES RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER

Join us for Part 2 of exploring *Peaceful Practices: A Guide to Healthy Communication in Conflict* with Rev. Ken Braun, Executive Director of Community Mediation Service for Polk County. We will meet Sunday evenings September 11, September, 18, and September 25 from 6:00-7:00 (time pushed back to 6:30 on 9/18). You can join whether you attended Part 1 in the spring or not. Contact Krisha (krisha@salemwestpres.org) for the materials if you'd like to get caught up on the information from Part 1. Sign-ups for Part 2 coming soon.

WESTPRES KIDS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING — SEPT 11

Students and educators of all types, please join us in service on September 11 for a back-to-school blessing and small gift. Rites of passage gifts will also be presented to our incoming kindergartners, third-graders, and sixth-graders that morning!

GET READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School begins for the fall on September 25! Preschool through first grade will meet downstairs for the entirety of the 10:30 service.

Our second through fifth-graders will worship with their families in the sanctuary until they are invited to leave for Sunday School (10:45).

Anyone with questions or interest in helping in the classrooms, please contact Krisha (krisha@salemwestpres.org).







ANNUAL YOUTH MISSION DINNER

Save the Date: Annual Youth Mission dinner September 18th @ 5:00PM More details to come....



JUNE/JULY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 21 9AM Trad. Worship 10:30AM Contemp Svc 11AM Events Comm Noon Leadership Mtg Guest Preacher: Elmarie Parker	AUGUST 22	AUGUST 23 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 3:30PM Building & Grounds 6PM Personnel Mtg 7PM Yoga Class	AUGUST 24 TBD Staff Mtg 5:30PM Worship Team 7PM Deacons Mtg	AUGUST 25 7PM Youth Committee	AUGUST 26	AUGUST 27
YOUTH CITY CAM	P					
AUGUST 28 OUTSIDE WORSHIP 9AM Trad. Worship 10:30AM Contemp Svc 1PM Gathering for Roger Budke @ Pavillion at Riverside Park Pastor Kelly Preaches	AUGUST 29	AUGUST 30 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 7PM Yoga Class	AUGUST 31 TBD Staff Mtg 5:30PM Worship Team	9:30AM Tea w/Jesus 10:30AM Children's Ministry 5PM Worship Comm.	SEPTEMBER 2	SEPTEMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 5	SEPTEMBER 6	SEPTEMBER 7	SEPTEMBER 8	SEPTEMBER 9	SEPTEMBER 10
OUTDOORS SERVICES 9AM Trad. Worship 10:30AM Contemp Svc Pastor Kelly Preaches	Noon Nominating Mtg	10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 6PM SW Assoc of Neighbors 7PM Yoga Class	1PM Outreach Mtg TBD Staff Mtg 5:30PM Worship Tm. 7PM Family Min.	1:30PM Stephen Min 2PM Fellowship Mtg 5PM Handbells Reh. 5:30PM Adult Ed 6:30PM Choir Reh		
SEPTEMBER 11	SEPTEMBER 12	SEPTEMBER 13	SEPTEMBER 14	SEPTEMBER 15	SEPTEMBER 16	SEPTEMBER 17
9AM Trad. Worship 10:30AM Contemp Svc 6:30PM Peaceful Prac- tices Pastor Kelly Preaches		10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 7PM Yoga Class	TBD Staff Mtg 5:30PM Worship Team	9:30AM Tea w/Jesus 5PM Handbells Reh. 5:30PM MPEJ Mtg 6:30PM Choir Reh		
SEPTEMBER 18	SEPTEMBER 19	SEPTEMBER 20	SEPTEMBER 21	SEPTEMBER 22	SEPTEMBER 23	SEPTEMBER 24
9AM Trad. Worship 10:30AM Contemp Svc 5PM Annual Youth Dinner 6:30PM Peaceful Prac- tices Pastor Kelly Preaches		10:30AM Pastor's Bible Study 11AM South Salem Connects 6PM Personnel Mtg 7PM Yoga Class	TBD Staff Mtg 5:30PM Worship Team 6PM Session	5PM Handbells Reh. 6:30PM Choir Reh		



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Prayers for Westin Heringer, Senior, and his family, as he prepares for treatment to treat lung cancer and a brain tumor.
- ◆ Update on Sue Ray Her eye surgery went exceptionally well and she is recovering at home.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER

Bill Hruska, Duff Kannier, Mather's great-grandson, James Pratt and his parents, Dick Stephens, Cynthia Curran, Nancy Klarr, Bill Hubble

- Sheila Powell and her husband Tom, as Tom continues to undergo treatment for cancer.
- Prayer for long-time member Nancy Klarr, who has cancer.
- Mary Smith, who is in hospice

PLEASE SEND PRAYER REQUESTS AND HEALTH 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.



WPC STAFF & HOURS

PASTOR

Rev. Kelly Wadsworth
Sunday – Thursday
(Tues – Thurs Community Days and Open Office Hours)
pastorkelly@salemwestpres.org
(503) 364-3327 Ext. 101

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Jean Severson Mon – Fri jean@salemwestpres.org (503) 364-3327, Ext. 103

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YOUTH DIRECTOR

Vik Schaaf Sun – Wed vik@salemwestpres.org (503) 364-3327, Ext. 106

FAMILY AND ADULT DIRECTOR

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The next BKS newsletter will be published on Friday, September 23rd.. Articles may be submitted directly to the church office or by email to: **jean@salemwestpres.org**