



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

worship well



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the Chronicle

February 16, 2017 - volume 47, number 7

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **Presbyterians and Politics**

During this season in which so many in our nation are following politics and governance more intently than normal, it is good to take stock of what role our Presbyterian tradition encourages us to play in the political arena.

First, Presbyterians have always been involved in helping shape the society in which we live. According to our foundational principles, three of the six "great ends of the church" lead us outward to society: "the preservation of truth," "the promotion of social righteousness," and "the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world." Thus, in our nation, Presbyterians have been involved in signing the Declaration of Independence, in defending and then in helping abolish slavery, in the temperance and prohibition movements, the civil rights movement, and others. We have been shapers of America's role in the world, and we are often represented in Congress at a higher percentage than our share of the population. Because Presbyterians take seriously God's providential care for the world, we respond with leadership and involvement in public matters.

Second, that involvement is ultimately a matter of an individual's conscience in relationship to God, arrived at through study, prayer, and fellowship with other Christians. Our Historic Principles of Church Order state that "God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of [people] which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship... Therefore we consider the rights of private judgment, in all matters that respect religion, as universal and unalienable..." While the church, its members, officers, or pastors may guide our individual decisions, ultimately we make up our own minds in our relationship with God.

Third, we also strive to remain in fellowship with people with whom we may not agree on such matters. As Presbyterians, our founding documents remind us that "we believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which [people] of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty of both private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other."

We have concern for public affairs. We exercise individual conscience in our decisions. And we remain in community with one another. These are hallmarks of our tradition that Westminster embodies particularly well. I anticipate that as divided as we might be as a nation, we can keep those emphases within our congregation and in the process perhaps make a small contribution to "mutual forbearance" in our nation as we seek to "exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven" in our own life together as a congregation.

Larry



Please remember in prayer the family and friends of:

- **Nancy Umhotz Pera**, former member, who died on January 20
- **Howard L. Kitzmiller**, who died on January 22
- **Shirley Jo Hays**, who died on January 24
- **Phyllis Jeanne Taylor**, who died on February 4

New Book in the Pera Library

In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals By Eileen Guenther

Besides filling in as worship organist and choir director in January, and leading several adult classes at Westminster, Dr. Eileen Guenther is Professor of Church Music at Wesley Theological Seminary and author of a new book, *In Their Own Words: Slave Life and The Power of Spirituals*. The book was donated to the Pera Library by the Westminster Choir in January.

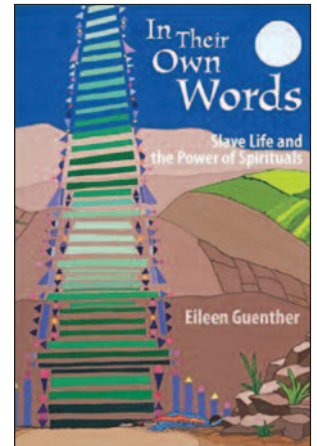
In Their Own Words explores the critical link between personal narratives of enslaved African Americans and the spirituals that expressed their sorrows, hopes for freedom, protests and more. The book speaks to the universal power of music while lifting up the specific power of these original American folksongs.

Research for the book was compiled from 2,400 interviews conducted in the 1930s through the Federal Writers Project and more than 200 testimonials either written by or dictated by slaves. Readers will explore melodic and rhythmic characteristics of spirituals and delve into the meanings behind familiar melodies including "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Steal Away."

In a recent article for Wesley Theological Seminary, Eileen explained:

"(Spirituals) reflect where we are, and what we're experiencing. They help us get to a place of hope out of a place of despair. (The book) turns a laser beam on the way spirituals intersect with us today and demonstrates how music can help us face the challenges of our own time. It's the most connecting music there is. It speaks from the heart and to the heart. ...More than any other genre — and I've done it all — this music touches people."

Check out the author-inscribed copy now available in the Pera Library!





Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

www.wpc-alex.org/singles

Nancy Hall Berens, Director | nhallberens@wpc-alex.org



The Flying Solo group enjoys the Matisse/Diebenkorn exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art in January.

Sunday, February 26 | Roundtable Lunch and Discussion

In an Affluent Society Such as Ours, Should Health Care Be Viewed as an Individual's Right or as a Privilege?

12:30 PM in the Haverkamp Room. Lunch will be provided.

Our speaker will be Westminster member Jim Muyskens, University Professor, Graduate Center, City University of New York, and Former President of Queens College, CUNY. Jim's publications and courses are in the areas of (1) ethics of health care, specifically questions of justice and rights as well as nursing ethics, and (2) philosophy of religion, specifically the role of hope in religious commitment. The topic for our Roundtable discussion will focus on the following questions: As Congress is grappling with the politics of repeal and replacing the Affordable Care Act, what are the fundamental ethical questions we should be debating? For example, is access to a decent minimum of health care a right? Can we call an affluent society such as ours just if millions of residents do not have access to basic health care and then suffer and die as a result? Join us for this important and timely discussion!

Tuesday, February 28 | Monthly Potluck | 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor

Come make sandwiches for Bag Lunch then enjoy potluck dinner together. Please bring a simple dish to share.

Monday, March 13 | Monthly Dine-Out

If it's March, then it's an Irish Dine-Out! This year we will enjoy an early St. Patrick's celebration at Siné Irish Pub & Restaurant in Pentagon Row, 1301 S. Joyce St, Arlington. Meet at church at 7 PM to carpool or meet at the restaurant at 7:15.

Monday, April 17 | Book Group

It's time to start reading our next book, *Aquinas for Armchair Theologians* by Timothy M. Renick. This book has been described as clear, concise and witty with an accessible text and fun illustrations. Learn all about this important early Christian thinker and his views on a wide variety of subjects from God and angels to sex, war and politics! Discussion at 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor.

Save the Date!

Flying Solo's annual Fall Retreat will be on Columbus Day weekend, October 6–8, 2017, at Hallowood Retreat Center with Patrick Hunnicutt as our leader! Nestled at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain in rural Maryland, Hallowood offers an ideal location to get away with church friends for a weekend of reflection, discussion, worship, and fellowship.

Men of Westminster

www.wpc-alex.org/menofw

Contact: Dudley Schadeberg | mow@wpc-alex.org

Men's Breakfast



Friday, March 10, 7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
The Supreme Court Nominee, Travel Ban, Executive Orders, and Regulatory Reform: The Legal and Policy Implications of the New Administration's Policies with Paul Kamenar

Come join us for what will be an informative look at and discussion of current political and legal issues. Paul Kamenar, a public policy and appellate attorney, will discuss the legal and policy implications of controversial topics that are in the news under the new administration: the recent nomination of Circuit Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and issues relating to the judicial confirmation process; the challenging of the "Travel Ban" in the courts, President Trump's firing the Acting Attorney General and issues concerning the operation of the Justice Department and the separation of powers; and the flurry of Executive Orders that have been released, raising the issue of proper roles of the President and the Congress as it did during the Obama Administration. Finally, Congress is re-asserting its legislative powers in a series of regulatory measures, invoking the Congressional Review Act to veto pending

regulations issued by the Obama Administration and the recent passing of the REINS Act (Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny) by the U.S. House of Representatives that would prevent any major regulation by an agency from taking effect unless it is approved by Congress.



Mr. Kamenar has argued before the Supreme Court and seven federal courts of appeals, representing members of Congress in precedent-setting cases. He has spoken at conferences across the country on overcriminalization and regulatory enforcement and has briefed members of Congress on these issues. He has appeared on numerous television shows, including Good Morning America, Nightline, the PBS McNeil-Lehrer Report, CNN Crossfire, Charlie Rose, and Oprah. Paul was Senior Executive Counsel of the Washington Legal Foundation from 1980-2009; Clinical Professor of Law at George Mason University Law School from 1999-2005; and adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center teaching a separation of powers/appellate advocacy seminar. He is a graduate of Georgetown Law and received his undergraduate degree in Economics from Rutgers College. He lives in Chevy Chase, MD with his wife and has two grown daughters.

2017 Men's Retreat

The Men of Westminster had a great time on their retreat at Hallowood earlier this month!





Christian Education and Formation

www.wpc-alex.org/adult

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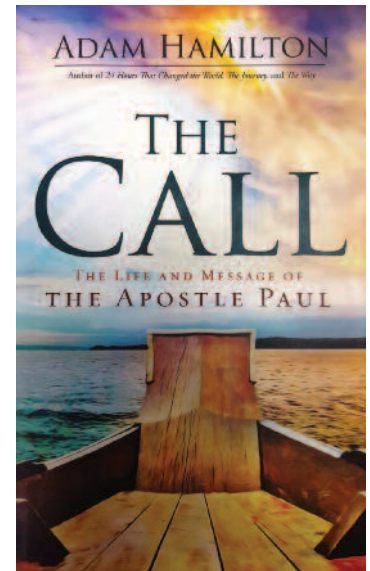
"...a man full of flash & fire, passion & vigor, wit & charm, pride & humility, enormous self-confidence, and fear & trembling." –E. P. Sanders, author of *Paul: A Very Short Introduction*

The Apostle Paul was a remarkable theologian. Over fifty people have been meeting in small groups this month to share their thoughts about Paul and his journeys after reading *The Call: Life and Message of the Apostle Paul* by Adam Hamilton, participating in Westminster's first Congregational Book Read.

During Paul's short ministry (of only 20 years), he walked many miles to cities in many countries: Antioch, Galatia, Tarsus, Derbe, Troas, Macedonia, Philippi, Athens, Corinth, Caesarea, Jerusalem. Inspiring believers and non-believers, he brought many non-Jews to worship God. Hamilton brings us to a deeper understanding of Paul's life & ministry by combing through his many letters and writings and connecting the dots between Acts and Romans, between Ephesians and Philippians, portraying Paul's unwavering convictions through which we still learn & grow today.

We've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. And by the nature of being human, we don't always do what we want and often do the very thing we hate (Romans 7). Yet Paul calls us to forgive, to show kindness, and to not harbor resentments. A perfect message still. As he travelled the regions of Galatia visiting and teaching, calling on the people to not treat Gentiles as second-class or unclean—which seemed to him to violate the very essence of the Gospel—we are called today to navigate the seas of change in the world and in our midst. May we speak of compromise, as did Paul with non-Jews, and conserve tradition with "reformed, always being reformed," as did Paul so long ago. In Paul's words, God uses imperfect people in challenging times. Acts of faith in the midst of difficult times leave a mark on others. Hope to see you soon at Adult Education Hour.

-Amey



Navigating the Seas of Change Upcoming Classes - Sundays, 9:45–10:45 AM in Haverkamp Room

February 12, 19 & 26

Dr. Sathi Clarke, Wesley Seminary Professor & Chair in World Christianity

Dr. Clarke offers new ways to engage as Christians in our interreligious world. Uniquely adept, Dr. Clarke is able to bridge the world between establishment and marginalized; global & local; and academy & congregation. Come hear a master teach us "How are we to belong?"

For thirty years, Sathi has developed a passion for a love of academics and teaching as well as academic research and preaching. He has facilitated bible studies among the homeless, has worked among the Dalit in rural communities in India, and also finds tremendous joy in church ministry. He holds graduate degrees from

Madras University & Serampore University, as well as Yale Divinity degree and a Harvard ThD. His classes at Wesley Seminary are constantly waitlisted and very popular!

Sunday, March 5

Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana

Popular author and Presbyterian pastor Rev. McKibben Dana returns to Westminster to teach about improvising with God. Scripture will be used to show us examples of God's improvisation. Come find out some ways God might be at work in your life. How will you respond? MaryAnn will challenge us to see God in surprising ways through music, pop culture, literature and even psychology. This will be a fun class with lots to stimulate our thinking of God.

Westminster Roadsters

(Boomers and Beyond)



www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters
Patty Chamberlain, Director |
pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org
Register for events with Jessica Thurnes |
jthurnes@wpc-alex.org

Monday, February 27: Trip to the National Museum of the American Indian. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the church parking lot for a trip to explore the museum. We will eat lunch at the museum and be back no later than 2:00 p.m. Cost \$2 plus lunch.

Monday, March 20: Lunch and a Movie. Join us for lunch and a movie at the Angelika Film Center in Fairfax. We'll be able to order lunch right from our movie chair and eat while we watch a movie. Exact time of departure and the movie we will see will be determined two weeks prior to March 20. Tickets and reservations are \$13.50 plus lunch. Register to receive information about the time and show.

Thursday, April 20: LTA's *The Fabulous Lipitones*. What happens when a barbershop quartet is forced to take on an unconventional replacement when one of their members suddenly dies? A comical and moving story about the power of song, prejudice, and friendship. Show starts at 8:00 p.m.; arrive between 7:30–7:45 to receive your ticket.

Monday, April 24: Lunch and Learn. Join us for lunch at Westminster and a TBD speaker. Lunch will begin at 12:15 p.m. Cost: \$10.



Children and Family Ministry

www.wpc-alex.org/families

Casey FitzGerald, Associate Pastor for Children & Families |

cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org

Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry |

pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org

Molly Roden, Interim Director of Children's Music |

mroden@wpc-alex.org

Whole Family Sunday | March 5 | 9:45-10:45 AM in Creation Station

All families with elementary school-aged children are encouraged to attend! Our theme for March is The Prodigal Son.

Family Retreat | May 13-14 | Family Faith in Conversation

Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD

Families with children age 0–5th grade are invited to experience this wonderful retreat opportunity! Our retreats are great for kids and grown-ups of all ages. Take this time away to reconnect with your own family—and the families that make up the church we call home! On our retreat, we'll be exploring how taking a look at the faith practices of Islam and Judaism, alongside a look at Christianity, can help us know and love our neighbors and inspire us with new ideas for family rituals and activities that strengthen our Christian belief and identity.

Our retreat leader is the wonderful Rev. Jennifer Dunfee. Jennifer serves as the Chaplain of the National Presbyterian School, a nursery-6th grade school of 300 students. She creates interactive worship services, teaches classes from Bible to Christian ethics to Christianity in conversation with Judaism and Islam, oversees mission and service, and provides pastoral care to the community. Before working at NPS, Jennifer was the associate pastor for youth and families at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. She lives with her three children and spouse on the campus of The Madeira School, an all-girls high school, where her husband chairs the history department.

The Claggett Center is situated on 268 acres with a working farm and fantastic views of Sugarloaf Mountain and the Monocacy River Valley. It's a place where inspiration abounds—you can take the time to hike a trail, enjoy your meals on the patio, or relax in a porch rocker and watch the sunrise. Bishop Claggett is about an hour and fifteen minute drive from Westminster. Information and registration form will be at www.wpc-alex.org/families. Registration ends March 31!

Music & More Week | Mornings, June 26–30 | *Malice in the Palace*

M&M Week is our summer musical day camp experience for children who are currently enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Led by Casey FitzGerald, Patty Chamberlain, and Molly Roden, this is a special week filled with singing, drama, storytelling, arts and crafts, snacks, recreation, games, and more! Many volunteers and parents also teach and assist. Registration will begin soon!

Congratulations to the first recipients of the Bdecan Presbyterian Scholarships!



Thanks to your generosity, eight members of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe enrolled at Cankdeska Cicana (Littlehoop) Community College received scholarships in the fall of 2016. Cankdeska Cicana is a two-year tribal college that offers short-term certificate programs along with a range of programs in professional fields and the liberal arts. Learn more about the college at www.littlehoop.edu. The National Mission Committee would like to introduce you to the awardees:

“I want to get my degrees from this college and one day say to my sons, ‘That’s where mom graduated from.’”

Alison is in school full-time pursuing a certificate in Office Technology and then a degree in Business Administration. A mother of a four-year-old son with a baby due in February, Alison works at a travel plaza when she is not in classes. She was grateful for possible assistance so she could give her car a tune up, buy snow tires, and put away some Christmas gifts for her son.

“I will build houses for my people of the Spirit Lake Tribe and one day own my own construction business.”

A “full time student and full time father” with an Associate’s degree in carpentry, Ira is working toward a degree in construction management. He was recently elected secretary of the student government and competes against students from other American Indian colleges in the archery club. With a scholarship, Ira hoped to buy a laptop so he would have a computer at home.

“Myself included, we are all trying to better ourselves through education. I am thankful for the opportunity that I have been given.”

Jeffrey is a Dakota Studies major, learning the culture, history, and language of the Sioux nation.

“I want to give back to my community, by trying to find solutions to the multiple problems that are affecting so many people of the Spirit Lake Nation.”

With her two children now in school, Jennifer has been able to return to school herself and pursue an Associate’s degree in social work.

“I am a very hardworking, determined and responsible woman. This scholarship would be extremely helpful and greatly appreciated.”

After receiving her GED at CCCC in 2008, Amanda has returned for an Associate’s degree in liberal arts and ultimately an AA in social work. Amanda balances motherhood, a full-time job as a security guard at the Spirit Lake Casino and Resort, and a forty-mile commute.

“I would like to use my carpentry skills to help my tribe build houses on the reservation, because that is a big problem on the reservation, a shortage of housing.”

Stanley is pursuing a degree in construction management.

“It gives me hope knowing that there are nice, educated leaders here [at CCCC] that are willing to go above and beyond for anyone.”

Working full-time and raising her seven-year-old son, Amanda is a half-time student working toward an Associate’s degree in Business Administration, with the goal of a Bachelor’s degree.

“It’s hard to explain but I can feel it every time I think I can’t do it, there’s something there telling me I can, so I keep going with the unknown plan for my life.”

Kiesha grew up a member of Bdecan Presbyterian Church, and her experiences there as a youth have inspired her goal of starting a foundation for the children of the Spirit Lake Reservation. A single mother with a full-time job, she is enrolled part-time in pursuit of a degree in accounting and business and mentioned specifically her desire to take a class in grant writing.

Announcement

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that Margaret Hirsch is serving as a Volunteer Pastoral Care Assistant to provide support for the pastoral ministry of the church during Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt's sabbatical. Primarily working with Pastoral Care Coordinator Eileen Jinks, Margaret is providing up to five hours per week visiting with our senior members who are homebound and residents of senior living communities. She recently completed five years on the Diaconate, serving as Moderator for one year. When she was a member at Oak Ridge Methodist Church in Oak Ridge, TN, she was trained as a Stephen Minister and served there for three years. She is a licensed school counselor in VA, MD and TN, and was a licensed professional counselor in TN. Margaret says, "Two experiences in my life which gave me the most blessings were being a Stephen Minister and being a Deacon."



Lent Together Wednesdays, March 8, 15 & 22

3–7 PM | Worship Stations in the Sanctuary

Our worship stations will be drawn from the stations of the cross, a tradition of focusing on a series of images depicting Jesus on the path to the crucifixion. Join us to worship with our eyes, our ears, our hands, and our hearts. Our worship stations are created with all ages in mind—adults, youth, and children.

5–6 PM | Centering Prayer in the Westminster Room (also continues on March 29 and April 5)

We often think of prayer as thoughts or feelings, but Centering Prayer allows for being with God in community beyond our words. Prayer in the reformed tradition says when we're threatened by the unknown there's something inherent in us that senses the transcendent. Our Heidelberg Confession says prayer is necessary because it's the chief part of gratitude which God requires of us. Prayer isn't for the purpose to make God understand us, since God already knows our innermost thoughts. But prayer does allow us to increase self-understanding and changes us to conform more nearly to God's will. Come listen together for God. We'll share a reading, share our thoughts and sit in silence centering ourselves in God and listening together with mind and heart.

6–7 PM | Simple Dinner in Fellowship Hall

\$5/person age 5 and up | free for age 4 and under | family max \$20 (pay at the door)

7–8:30 PM | "Navigating Busyness" in Room 103/105

Joanne Steller from Foundry United Methodist Church in DC will join us for a special Lenten series. Explore your reactions to a stressful, busy life—from how busyness affects decision-making and causes resentment to what gives you encouragement and where you find gratitude. Take home some techniques that can help you to navigate day-to-day living.

Please let us know if you will attend and if you need childcare by February 28. We need a minimum of 6 to hold the class. Contact Amey Upton.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen

Nancy Hall Berens | nhallberens@wpc-alex.org

Moderator, Bea Hurt and Vice Moderator, Janet Harris | PW@wpc-alex.org



Women's Retreat

Retweeting with Ruth led by the Rev. Maggie Hayward
Friday, March 17–Sunday, March 19
Hallowood Retreat Center

Register: www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen by
Wednesday, March 1

Wither Thou Goest? To the Westminster Women's Retreat! Join with Maggie Hayward as we follow the Old Testament character of Ruth in a new way. We'll take a look at the book's importance as literature and as scripture, and the weaving of the human and divine intentions in the story. What might Ruth tweet to the world in our time? In seeking the purpose for our lives, what is our responsibility and what do we leave to God? Plan now for a relaxing weekend get-away with friends, old and new, as we talk together about what is going on in our lives that may be interesting, funny, or useful to one another. No electronic skills required! Maggie is the pastor at Northwood Presbyterian in Silver Spring, MD.

Spring Gathering | Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30 PM in the Haverkamp Room

Join us for a panel discussion on childhood hunger in Alexandria. Representatives from local schools and programs will discuss how hunger affects student performance in school and what can be done to alleviate hunger right here in our own city.

Connecting with women here at Westminster:

Women's Circles

Over 100 women are involved with a circle here at Westminster. We meet monthly for Bible study, fellowship, and mission outreach. This year, we are exploring the question "Who is Jesus?" We have been looking at how each of the four gospels portrays Jesus, and now we are studying how the apostle Paul and other scriptures and faiths view Jesus. It's never too late in the program year to join a circle and to begin to deepen your faith through study and discussion with other women in the church. Visit the Presbyterian Women's page on the church website to learn more.



Pillow Ministry | Wednesday, March 1 | 9:30 AM in Haverkamp Room

Sew and/or stuff animals and pillows to give to children and heart patients at Alexandria Hospital.

Shanghai | Monday, March 6 | 7:15 – 9 PM in Haverkamp Room

Come play the Shanghai card game on the first Monday of each month. Any woman who loves playing cards, friendly competition, and fellowship is invited to attend!



Book Groups led by Clara Beth Van de Water Monday, February 27 at 11

AM or 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor

Read *Queen Sugar* by Natalie Braszile, a novel about personal transformation, family relationships, and race relations set in the context of sugar cane farming in the contemporary South.

Monday, March 27 at 11 AM or 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor

Read *One Plus One* by Jojo Moyes, a novel is about the adventures and misadventures of a hardworking single mom, a "Goth" teenage stepson, a math whiz daughter, and their high tech millionaire friend.

Connecting with Presbyterian Women (PW) on the presbytery and synod level:

April 29: Spring Gathering of PW of National Capital Presbytery | www.presbyterianwomenncp.org

June 15-18: Summer Gathering of PW of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic | www.pwsynodmidatlantic.org

the Chronicle

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Nancy Hall BerensDir. of Congregational
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Art SauerMembership Involvement Coordinator
Amey UptonDirector of Adult Education
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Sensitive

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 1

We begin the season of Lent by acknowledging our need for repentance. By receiving the imposition of ashes, we participate in the Scriptural practice of using ashes as a sign of repentance and mourning. We invite you to observe a holy Lent, taking this time for examination, reflection, and preparation for the Easter celebration of the redemption that was won for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



6:30 PM Worship in the Sanctuary

A shorter service geared toward children and their families, featuring the children's choirs.

7:30 PM Worship in the Sanctuary

A traditional service for all Westminster members, friends, and visitors.