



Westminster Presbyterian Church Weekly Witness



Loving Faithful Committed

April 14, 2024

Welcome: We offer a warm welcome to Pastor Melody Young who is coming in to preach this week. She is also scheduled to preach with us in June and in August. She looks forward to seeing many old friends.

Opportunities abound for our members and friends to join in the ministry of Christ's Church here at Westminster. Every elder on Session, for example, has a focus area.

Amy Howlett and Guy Warren work with our finances.

Kay Hubbert works with youth and children.

Carol Days is focused on our music and our worship.

Mike Schieffer works with all the church information technology.

David Plotz works with personnel.

Don Wilson works with the Mission of the Church and on Building and Grounds.

Jan Stites helps in many areas.

Also, helping these elders doesn't necessarily mean committing to meetings. You can offer to help any of these elders in a number of ways just by talking to them during fellowship and offering to help with any project they are focused on. Just ask them. We also have deacons in charge of groups of our members who they check in on regularly. All of us have full lives with much to do. But it is a good thing to think about how you too would like to contribute. What skills can you bring to the table? I hope everyone who cares about our congregation will find a way to join in the effort to share Christ's work and Christ's love.

Pastor Tom

Join Us Sundays at 10 am
Westminster
Presbyterian Church
Live Worship Services



Click picture to go to our live worship service online.



*Did you know you can watch our past sermons on YouTube?
Please see our growing playlist called Sermons on [YouTube](#).*

You can also use the link on our Westminster homepage,

[Watch Past Messages](#), or use the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/WPC-Sermons>

Thank you to all who will make this week's

Worship Service a success:

Bridge Pastor: Pastor Tom Paine

Lay Reader: Jean Bluhm

Elder of the Day: Michael Schieffer

Usher/Greeter: Jean B. & Judy S.

Fellowship Host: Alviars

Organist: Jan Snider/Pianist: Carolin Auvil-Greenfield

Prelude: Sung by Westminster Chancel Choir



April Food Bank Donations: Canned Meat

**Our Deacons are collecting the following
Food items to help feed the hungry**

**FOOD
DRIVE**

thank you for your donation



Canned Meats: Chicken, Tuna, Spam, Ham, Corned Beef, Roast Beef, Turkey, Vienna Sausage, Etc...Thank you for supporting this program by placing your donations in the basket at the bottom of the sanctuary steps.

Let us join together to help lift, restore, heal, love and feed our neighbors.

Elder Serving this Sunday

Lay Reader Calendar

Usher/Greeter Calendar

April 2024	April 2024	April 2024
April 7 Don Wilson	April 7 Don Wilson	April 7 Gary Odegaard
April 14 Mike Schieffer	April 14 Jean Bluhm	April 14 Jean & Judy
April 21 Kaye Hubbert	April 21 Kaye Hubbert	April 21 Hareld & Janet Dills
April 28 Guy Warren	April 28 Nancy Emerick	April 28 Chuck & Nancy Emerick

Thank you to everyone who is our **Elder, Lay Reader** or
Ushers/Greeters for the month of **April 2024**

If you are unable to be a Elder, Lay Reader or Usher/Greeter on the scheduled date please let the church office know right away & please make arrangements for a replacement Elder, Lay-Reader or Usher. **People who may substitute are:**
J. Vander Stoep, Mike Dwyer, David Plotz, Nancy Leventon, Gary Odegaard

1 Cori Hartley

Jenny Kirk,

Mitch Lund,

Jacob Zylstra

6 Isabella Harlow

Judy Wilson

7 Kathleen Alviar



9 Melyssa Carter

16 Olivia Carr

17 Nancy Emerick

26 Dennis Blake

Kate Alex&er,

Jo V&er Stoep

ELDERS

Leading, Shepherding, Teaching.

DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

Kaye Hubbert

Carol Days

Guy Warren

Amy Howlett

Dave Murphy

Don Wilson

Michael Schieffer

David Plotz

Jan Stites

Kay Odegaard

Judy Stone

Wayne Osborn

Robin Frantz

Joyce Carr

Janet Dills

Nung Plotz

Kathrine Gulmert

Peg Warren



Fellowship Hosts for April 2024

April 7 - Dave Murphy

April 14 - Alviars

April 21 - Mel & Jean Bluhm

April 28 - Hareld & Janet Dills

History Corner #14 April, 2024

The St Helens Club is the 2nd oldest woman's club in the state. It meets here in the Fellowship Hall. On May, 1st (from 1:00-2:00), I will share with this St Helens Club how many of its members are also women from our church. This club started in **1895** with some members of our church, educated women who needed a place to keep their traditions, their culture and still fit in to the Chehalis wilderness where cows roamed the plank covered water and mud and loggers and hunters almost spoke a different language. It was depression but there were 14 taverns and 7 churches and ours was one of them. They met and made a difference by getting the cows off the streets and creating a comfortable place for country women to rest after a long buggy ride and change their babies' diapers. This community effort continued, and they restored the Jackson House, planted trees along the road to Centralia, worked at the S.W. WA Fair and each week gave presentation they researched and gave with good diction and correct speech.

Our own Francis Kennicott, wife of Dr. Kennicott, who built the first hospital in Chehalis and daughter, Frances were members. Her large home on State Street built and designed by the same architect as our church was a place of many meetings. Emily Stearns, daughter of Laura St John on the plaque in front of our church and married to Joel Stearns, son of our first elder and her mother Laura and sister were also members. Edna Newland, a member of our Ladies Aid Society was among the women who got a loan to buy the lot our church is built on was a St Helen member. Anna Urquhart the woman the blue "Garden of Gethsemane" window was dedicated to was also a member as was her daughter-in law Sara Murry.

From this early membership our women Mary Judd, Kaye Kaufman, Kay Bain, Mary Elizabeth Heimbigner, Haven and Eleanor Petersen, Jackie Minnick, Joyce Johnson (Nancy Leventon's mother and Nancy), Mel Johnson, Dr. Kate Gregg, Florence Kennicott who did so much in our church including saving the Pioneer windows, Ethel McGovern, Kay Rollefson, Meg Martin, Bev Ramsey, Fran Giffey, Doris Tibbits, Norma Zylstra, Suzy Vander Stoep, Janet Bluhm, Jean Bluhm, Meredy Fay, Maryann Kruse, Liz Powell, Jan Snider, Lou Charneski, Jean Smith our secretary through many pastors, Ethel and Jeri Smith (Jean's daughters), June Cleveland, all attended our church. There were 44 in all.

In our church history it is evident that the Christ filled women in our church since its beginning, had the gifts from God to make a difference in this community. They listened to God and with His guidance forged ahead with worthwhile projects to evangelize. We are a downtown church standing bold over the years and with God's continued help and with our men by our side, we will find just the right minister and we will support this person and with God's blessing, we will fill our congregation with sinners, like ourselves who want to become God's willing helpers to spread His work throughout the area.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Regular Session/Council Meeting

Docket for Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 5:15 PM In-person meeting

Elders:

Class of 2025		Class of 2026		Class of 2027	
Amy Howlett	P	David Plotz	P	Carol Days	E
Dave Murphy	P	Mike Schieffer	P	Jan Stites	A
Kaye Hubbert	P	Don Wilson	P	Guy Warren	P

Moderator: Rev. Tom Paine; Clerk: Judy Wilson; Treasurer: Guy Warren

Pastor Tom Paine opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m. with prayer in the Mabel Giffey Room. There were no guests at this meeting.

Devotions

Don Wilson

The scripture for the devotion was from Matthew 25, the separating of the sheep from the goats and titled "The Judgement of the Nations". Jesus told the disciples "Whenever you did it to the least of these, you did it to me." This message is what Christianity is all about, doing and thinking about others. This should be the message of all churches, thinking about others.

It was MSP to accept the docket as amended, changing the closing prayer to be done by Don Wilson, not Amy Howlett as printed.

It was MSP to accept the session minutes from February 27, 2024, as sent.

REPORTS

Pastor's Report

Pastor Tom Paine

February 28-March 26, 2024

Meetings and Activities:

- a. Worship: Lent has gone very well. Carol, Carolin, and Jan have all be superb leading our music. Westminster Bells, the choir, and the praise team all greatly add to the services. I very much appreciate our regular rotation of worship leaders (Don, Guy, Nancy Emerick, Matthew, and Kathryn, Jean, J, and Gary. We also have been very successful getting folks to sign up for pulpit supply. You have pulpit supply pastors for the second (and fifth Sundays when they happen) through August, although you might not need it that long. I am also scheduled to bring home communion this week.
- b. Classes: I am enjoying the discussion around Don Wilson's book choice *The Difficult Words of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. I am speaking with our preschool children about Easter this week.
- c. Mission: I hope we can give an update to One Parish / One Prisoner to Dexter Kearney. Are we still interested? Do we want to wait until a new pastor is aboard?
- d. Session: I have not been able, to sit down with each of you and discuss your focus area and/or brainstorm how to bring your best gifts to the table yet. Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and my brief vacation ate up my time. I hope to do so in the coming month. I do hope we can make better use of the announcements and Weekly Witness.
- e. Pastoral Care: Without breaking confidentiality, counseling cases for our congregation have increased lately as people are getting to know me.
- f. Presbytery: Co-moderating and being a liaison to churches on the Commission for Ministry continues to keep me busy. I was able to lead the Commission on Ministry portion of presbytery this month as well as vote for Westminster on various motions. Joyce Carr was our elder representative. Pastor Tom encourages all Elders to attend Presbytery.
- g. Deacons: We need to elect a new chair of the deacons. We need to have a deacons meeting. I appreciate the work Wayne has done with the deacons over Lent. Wayne is only stepping down as the chair.
- h. Office: Linda has been doing a stellar job in the office even with her medical procedures. Keep her in your prayers this week.

Plans:

1. As mentioned above, I hope to meet with all our elders. I hope to do the same with our deacons.
2. I am working on a sermon series on Acts for the Easter Season.
3. We stand by in the office to help with the new directory.
4. I am working with Keith and Mike on ways to polish our Zoom and YouTube coverage of our worship services.
5. I will be moving our daughter on the first week of May back home (OSU is online for the summer).

Treasurer's Report

Guy Warren

Balance Sheet Items

- During February, the General Fund ran a surplus of \$13,101.52. Annual payments and a lack of quarterly expenses contributed to the size of the surplus. For the year, we are running a surplus of \$13,548.889.

Notes for Income

- Pledge/Regular Giving for February was \$32,084.82. This is more than our usual average amount for a month, but there was an annual gift included in that amount.
- Early contributions of \$520.00 were received for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Temporary Restricted Fund Activities

- There was no activity in the Investment in Youth Fund during February. The overall balance in the investment in Youth Fund remains \$74,824.32.

Notes for Expenses

- Our natural gas bill was considerably higher than our average bill which, in covering our church heating in December is easily understood.
- The amount shown for the work being done by Kevin Conant is for two months (January and February). He was not paid until the full details of the position were approved by the Session in February.
- The elevator fees shown in the General Fund Budget were the cost of our required annual inspections. The special once every five-year inspection was covered by the Capital Improvement Fund.
- Most of the expenses for other repairs and maintenance (Account 5710 on page 3) was for the complete cleaning of all carpets in the church building. This was last done in 2022.
- The \$290 paid for copyright Licensing (Account 6287 on page 4) was the first of a couple of payments we make to organizations that make certain we have proper permission for the use of the music included in our services and shared on the internet.

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)

- The CIF was used to pay for the five-year elevator inspection described above. That work cost \$3,029.60. There was no other activity in the CIF. Including the Rug Replacement Account, the CIF has a total of \$136,630.20.

Preschool

- In February, the Preschool had a surplus of \$1,397.06. The surplus for the 2023-2024 school year is currently \$7,288.77. Much of the surplus can be explained by the receipt of \$709, from the annual fund-raising campaign, and an individual paying all their tuition for the remainder of the school year in February.

Other Items

- The revision I proposed for the 2024 budget is shown in this month's General Fund Income and Expense Statement. The change consisted entirely of moving the amount for Keith Conrad's position from the outreach line item to one for personnel expenses.
- At this point in the report, I usually note that "I still need to work on the copier issue". I have finally done some work on that subject and will have a separate listing of our options. However, I have yet to hear from the security system people.

- Our Current office copier/printer (Ricoh MPC3504EX Color copier) was first brought into service around early 2018. It was obtained with a multi-year lease which was fulfilled last year. At this point, we need to explore our options.
 - Purchase the existing machine
 - Lease a new machine
 - Purchase a new machine
 - Have Staples do our large-scale printing

After discussion *Session MSP to do the option of purchasing a new machine from Sharp Business.* We are also encouraging them to take the old one away.

- Peg and I will be off traveling again, as we will be away for about two weeks in April. Kay Odegaard will be the maker of payments during my absence.
- While it doesn't show up in our February financials, we did have another water issue, with one of the church toilets leaving the water running. This sort of thing has occurred before, and I am beginning to believe that either a replacement of the existing toilet or the implementation of safeguard is called for.

Clerk's Report

Judy Wilson

- Session Devotions
 - April Carol Days
 - May Kaye Hubbert
 - June Amy Howlett
 - July
 - August Guy Warren
 - September David Plotz
 - October Michael Schieffer
 - November Don Wilson
 - December Kaye Hubbert
 - January 2025 Michael Schieffer

BUSINESS MEETING

Old Business

Name Badges during worship

Mike Schieffer

- Badges should be here in a couple of weeks
- Two storage boards have been ordered
 - A basket was also suggested to collect badges on the way out

Youth and Family Position

David Plotz

- There have not been any nibbles currently. Waiting until a new permanent pastor is hired is the best idea at this time. *It was MSP to wait until a new permanent pastor is hired and installed to focus on this position.* The information will remain on the website.

Tiny Houses at Harrison Square

Don Wilson

Mitch Smith, the construction instructor at Centralia High School spoke to the committee about the plan to become the contractor. The committee still needs permission from the city for this project. The city has changed their stand on the zoning code.

Inventory of Keys

The original list was passed around and three more names were added: Kaye Hubbert, David Plotz and Mike Schieffer. 21 or 22 names were on the original list, with these additional three the total number with keys totals 24 or 25.

Discussion on J Vander Stoep's letter about the postlude and leaving the sanctuary

Pastor Tom will wait until after Easter to make any announcements to the congregation. He will do the benediction and invite the congregation to listen quietly if they chose to stay.

New Business

Elder of the Day for April

April 7 Don Wilson
April 14 Mike Schieffer
April 21 Kaye Hubbert
April 28 Guy Warren

Proposal to upgrade the computer in the office Mike Schieffer

- Mike reported that \$2,000 would replace the secretary’s computer with current technology. Currently there is no bid in writing.
- The office server will not be touched.
 - This server should be backed up on a regular basis. Mike will check to be sure this is happening.
- *It was MSP to move ahead on replacing the secretary’s computer in the office if the total cost is not over \$2,500.*

Update on website Mike Schieffer

- The Pre-school Board has some changes they would like to make.
- Our Facebook page is doing well, thanks to Keith Conrad.
- The website needs to be good and fresh.
- More pictures are suggested.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Receive reports and minutes from committees
- Communion served to 50 people in person on February 4, 2024
- Next communion is April 7, 2024
- Next Session meeting is April 30, 2024
 - *Note the change of date for the April Session meeting.*

Don Wilson closed the meeting with prayer at **6:25 p.m.**

Attest: Judy Wilson Secretary WPC Session

Announcements for Sunday, April 14, 2024

Joys/Upcoming Events & Needs

- **Happy Birthday to everyone whose birthday is in April.**
- **Happy Anniversary to all our couples married in April.**

Concerns

- Kaye Hubbert prays for an easy delivery of her great grandson in the next two weeks.
- Prayers for Larry McCool of Kelso, WA, was a member, & Gary received word of Larry suffering a major stroke & has Alzheimer's. Please pray for Larry's family & friends during this difficult time.
- Robin Frantz asks for prayers for Wayne to find peace from his discomfort with the cancer & some remission so he can go to his grandson's birthday party in Oregon.
- Prayers for Mary, who is in the hospital with cancer & kidney problems. Prayers for peace & comfort as the doctors do their work.
- Kathryn Rotter asks for prayers for her daughter who just had a baby. Their baby girl is good, but mother had to stay in the hospital for a couple of days for treatment. She was allowed to go home on Saturday night but is confined to bed rest for several days. Prayers for patience for her & thankfulness two sets of grandparents to help take care of the grandchildren.
- Keith Conant's cousin in California was hit by a car. Prayers for a complete recovery from this accident.
- Prayers for Irene who is beginning chemo treatment. Prayers for successful treatments & healing as soon as possible.
- Jan & Ron Stites friend, Carla, was just diagnosed with cancer. Her husband just recently passed away. Prayers for her as she deals with two very difficult situations.
- Prayers for Phyllis Crawford, a good member is in a dementia center in Shelton. Prayers for her to feel God's presence.
- Gary Odegaard asked for continued prayers for their friend Almeda. She has been moved to a place where she can get special care. She is 94 years old & not happy about having to move. Prayers for her to feel God's peace.

Continued Prayers Needed for:

George Evans, John Poole, Jim Lester, Kay Odegaard, Clyde Hoffman, Dave Nunn, Erlinda Martinez, Doug Fletcher, Dave Murphy, Alijah Berry, Margie Howard, Janice Borden, Gwen Moor, Wayne Osborn, Bob Lund, Anne Westfall, Margie Howard, Jennette Dougherty, Lowell & Brenda Carlson, Clyde Berry, John Aggers, Kathryn Fraher, Elizabeth Duncan, Shellie Bailey, Rebecca Moore **Please call or email prayer updates to the office.**