



Westminster Presbyterian Church Weekly Witness

Loving Faithful Committed

May 12, 2024

Recently the Session has heard several reports about repairs, deferred maintenance, and other upgrades which our current facilities will require. The cost of this work has been found to be most likely well more than \$100,000. This is not an issue of finances but wanting to make best use of our facilities. Before the session spends that kind of money, the session would like some idea of what our exact physical facilities needs are and how we can most effectively meet those needs. Decisions on these matters will have definite long-term impacts which will need to be a part of any decisions made.

Planning to make best use of all of our facilities is a subject on which many people may have an interest or may have some specific knowledge that would be of use in making these decisions. At its meeting last Tuesday, The session voted to set up a task force to explore these issues and is seeking the participation of anyone who believes they have a particular interest in this area.

The Session does not believe that this task force will be a particularly long-term one nor should it be excessively time-consuming. We are hoping for members with expertise or interest in both the preschool and the church. If this is an issue on which you would like to help with, please let Gaylord Jones know. The Session is hoping to appoint the Task Force members at our meeting in late May.

Thanks

Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom will begin a new Bible Study on The Gospel of John beginning June 6th. It will be held in the Giffey Room at 10:30 a.m. every Thursday this summer.

All three synoptic Gospels get a liturgical year in the lectionary calendar (we are currently in Year B with a focus on Mark). John does not but readings from John are peppered in throughout the three year cycle. This allows us to hear John's voice but we really don't have an opportunity to look at John's message from beginning to end.

John also uses language that is sometimes problematic (something brought out well in our just past book study).

It has also been a Gospel used by fundamentalists to make Jesus' message fairly exclusive.

- Was that John's intent?
- Who was his original audience?
- Why did he write his Gospel?
- Why does it differ in sequence and focus from the other three?

We will examine these questions and more. Come for a lively discussion.

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:**

Guest Pastor: Pastor Bill Ward

Lay Reader: Jean Bluhm

Elder of the Day: Jan Stites

Usher/Greeter: James & Kathleen Alviar

Fellowship Host: Joyce Carr

Organist: Jan Snider/Pianist: Carolin Auvil-Greenfield



Thank You!

Our office will be closed for



MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27, 2024

Designed by pngtree

https://pngtree.com/freepng/american-memorial-day-elements_4170629.html>png image from pngtree.com/



https://pngtree.com/freepng/happy-mothers-day-floral-typography-beautiful-flowers_7682550.html>png image from pngtree.com/

Elder Serving this Sunday

Lay Reader Calendar

Usher/Greeter Calendar

| May 2024 | May 2024 | May 2024 |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| May 5 Carol Days | May 5 Don Wilson | May 5 Mike & Harriet Dwyer |
| May 12 Jan Stites | May 12 Jean Bluhm | May 12 James & Kathleen Alviar |
| May 19 Kaye Hubbert | May 19 Guy Warren | May 19 Judy Stone & Jean Bluhm |
| May 26 Don Wilson | May 26 Nancy Emerick | May 26 Don & Judy Wilson |

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

- 4 Anna Alexander
- 6 Kelly Wheeler
- 11 Wilma Schieffer
- 16 Linda Prosser
- 17 Greg Garman
- 20 J. Vander Stoep



- 21 Jan Leventon
- 22 Shari Christensen, Larry Smathers
- 24 Ann Vander Stoep
- 25 Lindsey Giffey, Donald Wilson



- 13 Mike & Harriet Dwyer
- 15 Terry & Teresa Brunstad
- 16 Jay & Robin Hall
- 31 Tony & Karen Reynolds



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 May 2024

- May 5 - Matthew & Kathryn Rotter
- May 12 - Joyce Carr
- May 19 - Hareld & Janet Dills
- May 26 - OPEN

[Vector Png vectors by Lovepik.com](https://lovepik.com/images/png-vector.html)

Starting the 1st Thursday in June

Summer BIBLE STUDY

with Pastor Tom, Thursdays at 10:30 am
in the Giffey Room



Carol Days & Linda Capps are in the process of getting our new **WPC directory** done and if anyone who wants to be listed in the directory or need to get a picture turned in for the directory time is running out.

Get your information/picture in now
Please send info/pic (in jpg format) to
officechehaliswpc@gmail.com

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Regular Session/Council Meeting

Docket for Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 5:15 PM In-person meeting

Elders:

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

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

GUESTS: J Vander Stoep from PNC, Mike Dwyer to speak to B and G issues

Pastor Tom Paine opened the meeting with prayer at 5:15 with a quorum present. The guests were acknowledged and given the privilege of the floor.

Devotions Carol Days

The theme of devotions was leadership and the impact it has on those around us. Leaders need to show Christ’s love and relay on Him. Leaders chose the kind of leaders they want to be.

It was MSP to approve the docket as amended. The amendments were:

1. Under Treasurer’s Report change “Printer Option” to Account Transfers”
2. Add Carol Days’ name next to the topic Update the directory
3. Change Elder of the Day for April to Elder of the Day for May
4. Move the PNC report from Old Business to the first report under Reports

It was MSP to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2024, Session meeting.

REPORTS

PNC Report J Vander Stoep

J gave a short report of the PNC committee. It has been working for two years and have looked at 160 applicants. Eight to ten people have had second interviews and three have been invited to visit Chehalis. The church is working with a Presbyterian matching system that doesn’t work very well. All churches using it are struggling. We had a liaison, Shari Jackson Martin. We raised the salary we are offering and that didn’t seem to make a difference. One of the big hurdles for pastors is housing. PNC wondered if WPC should go back to having a manse?

This firm will make two visits to Chehalis. The first will be to meet with the PNC and church members to have us home in on the four main qualities we want. They will look for people with the four qualities we give them around the country, and they will ask if they would come to Washington. They check official references and secondary ones. Then, probably about two months, they come back to the PNC with 5 to 7 candidates all of whom they know would at least really consider this position. The PNC can have zoom interviews with each to start evaluating the candidates.

PneuMatrix sent a 20 page plus proposal for developing a pool of candidates for a pastoral search.

The PNC requests that we try using a PneuMatrix to assist us in our search for the called pastor. The charge for this company is \$10,000. They will work with us until a pastor is found.

It was MSP to approve the hiring of PneuMatrix to assist us in hiring a new called pastor.

The funds will come from with Children/Youth Fund or Living Tribute.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Tom Paine

Meetings and Activities:

- a. Worship: Easter has gone quite well. I am pleased with our super music program and find everyone upbeat in worship. I also want you to know I have pulpit supply for the 2nd and 5th Sundays filled in through August. I am working on items in our sanctuary including sound, banners, and developing a greeting system. Elders abound helping with all of that. :)
- b. Classes: I am enjoying the discussion around Don Wilson's book choice *The Difficult Words of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. It is possible that I could offer a class the summer if no one else is.
- c. Mission: Are we on hold with One Parish / One Prisoner? Can we include a tiny house update in worship?
 - Don Wilson will speak to the congregation on May 5th asking anyone interested to contact Pastor Tom. If this mission is to continue, we need 5 to 7 participants.
- d. Session: I have been able to meet with Jan Stites so far. I am hoping to do so with each of you in the coming months as we develop each of your focus areas. I really want us to make use of the announcements more effectively and our communication tools (Weekly Witness, signage, social media).
- e. Pastoral Care: I am continuing to work with members of the congregation on pastoral issues. I was able to deliver home communion right after Easter. I am focused on getting our Deacons back in action too.
- f. Presbytery: Co-moderating and being a liaison to churches on the Commission for Ministry continues to keep me busy. We have had four online meetings so far and an in-person one coming up next month.
- g. Deacons: The deacons have not met since Wayne resigned. I want to call a Deacons meeting the next Sunday Wayne is in town as a new leader is chosen.
- h. Office: I will be working with Linda and Carol with the Directory. I also will be working with Robert on the banners. I will be working with Keith and Michael to continue to fine tune our presentation online.
- i. Pastor Tom Paine took part in the marriage ceremony of Josh and Caitlyn Woodson on April 11, 2024.
- j. Pastor Tom Paine did a funeral service for William Wirtanew on April 25, 2024.

Plans:

1. If indeed the path to getting an installed pastor is a longer one, I hope to act more as your transitional pastor than bridge pastor.
2. I am working on a summer sermon series on the prophets.
3. I am excited to help get a new process in place to welcome our visitors.
4. I am traveling Thursday and Friday to help move my daughter from WSU. She starts OSU online in the summer.
5. I plan to propose at the next Building and Grounds meeting the church investigating getting door alarms put on the church building. I also, as mentioned above, want them to investigate signage.
6. The docket for the Session meetings will have a deadline of the one week before the Session meeting to be included on the docket. Pastor Tom will talk with Linda Capps, secretary about this deadline.

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet Items

Guy Warren

During March, the General Fund ran a surplus of \$16,925.05. Annual giving payments and a lack of any quarterly expenses contributed to the size of the surplus. For the year, we are running a surplus of \$13,548.89.

We have used all our water bill rebate we received last year. That item has now dropped off the spreadsheet.

A new liability, Preschool Prepaid Tuition, has shown up within the Preschool portion of the balance sheet. We had an individual, who for personal reasons, paid their entire school year 2024-2025 tuition in March. For accounting purposes, this should not be shown as income in March, but rather as a liability to be liquidated as we earn that income. That will begin with the student's participation next school year. Their making this prepayment also increased our cash assets.

Notes for Income

Pledges/Regular Giving for March was \$31,318.03. This is more than our usual average amount for a month, but there was an annual gift included in that amount.

Total contributions of \$1,150 were received for several of our special offerings.

Temporary Restricted Fund Activities

There was no activity in the Investment in Youth Fund during March. 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. The bill covers our heating for the cold month of February. We pay the bill the month after the gas is provided.

March, being a five-Sunday month, had us using two pulpit supplies during the month. Thus, the amount spent is higher than usual.

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF)

The only activity in the CIF was our regular quarterly savings interest payment. For the CIF, that was \$18.93. Including the Rug Replacement Account, the CIF has a total of \$136,649.13.

Preschool

In March, the Preschool had a deficit of \$406.45. This does not include the tuition prepayment described above. For the 2023-2024 school year, the Preschool still has a healthy surplus of \$6,682.32. We also have a surplus of \$200 for the next school year. The deficit for this month was mostly attributable to increased supply expenses, which used the funds received in February from their annual fundraiser.

Other Items

The new printer is installed! It was installed on April 25th, so allowing a few days for the billing process to work, I suspect the payments for it will show up in our May financials. As agreed by the Session, it will be paid out of the existing copier lease account, with the remainder coming out of the Loving Tribute reserve account.

At the end of March, we had \$92,677.61 in the church's regular checking account. This is far more than we really need to have in this non-interest-bearing account. I will be drafting a proposal to be considered by the Session to give me permission to transfer some of these funds to an interest-bearing savings account, and to return them when needed. This proposal will be sent in a separate document.

In order to ensure that adequate funds are available in the church's regular checking account and ensure that funds in excess of that amount generate interest for the church, the Treasurer is authorized to transfer funds from our regular savings account to the regular checking account when needed to cover our obligations, and transfer funds from our regular checking account to our regular savings account when the balance of the regular checking account is greater than that required to meet our obligations. All transfers made in this fashion shall be reported to the Session at its next meeting. *It was MSP to give permission to Treasurer, Guy Warren, to make transfers as necessary.*

Clerk's Report

Judy Wilson

- **Session Devotions**

- May Kaye Hubbert
- June Amy Howlett
- July Don Wilson
- August Guy Warren
- September Jan Stites
- October Michael Schieffer
- November Don Wilson
- December Kaye Hubbert

BUSINESS MEETING

Old Business

- **Name badges during worship** Mike Schieffer
 - No report at this meeting.
- **Tiny Houses at Harrison Square** Don Wilson
 - This was tabled until the May Session meeting.
- **Update on new directory and Key Inventory** Carol Days
 - Carol will be meeting next week to finalize the information that has been turned in.
 - The Key Inventory is in the office on Linda's computer, a hard copy is also in the office, the Clerk has a copy and Carol has a copy.
- **Elder of the Day for May**
 - May 5 Carol Days
 - May 12 Jan Stites
 - May 19 Kay Hubbert
 - May 26 Don Wilson
- **Proposal to upgrade the computer system in the office** Mike Schieffer
 - There was no report available currently.
- **Web Site** Mike Schieffer
 - No report at this meeting.
- **B and G discussion about CCC**
 - The purpose of this discussion was to begin thinking about the future of Carr Community Center (CCC), where do we want to go? There are lots of alternatives:
 - Wait for a new pastor
 - There are lots of expenses for repair, upkeep, etc.
 - Sell it? Repair it? Tear it down? Turn it into a parking lot?
 - Would the PUD be interested in the property?
 - The first step in this process is to inform the congregation about the questions
 - Explain to the congregation that Session and B and G are looking at the future of our buildings.
 - Guy Warren will make this announcement to the congregation on Sunday, May 5th.
 - We will form a study group at the May Session meeting.

- We need people to represent pre-school, B and G
- Kaye Hubbert volunteered for this committee.
- Jan Stites mentioned Ron may be interested in this short-term committee.
- We need the pre-school input
- Find out what responsibility we have to Presbytery, if any.

New Business

Ideas for welcoming guests

Jan Stites

- **Guest Bags**
 - Amy Howlett volunteered to check on getting gift cards from local businesses
- **Thank you notes** from pastor, clerk, Deacon
 - Pastor Tom volunteered to write notes
- **Update the church brochure** or create new
 - Beliefs
 - Programs
 - Missions
 - Classes
 - Groups
 - Etc.
- **Families with children**
 - Coloring pages and crayons on clipboards
 - These are available to any kids
- **We have no children worshipping with us currently.**
 - Church conflicts with sporting events now held on Sundays
 - Should we offer something at a different time?
 - Have the pre-school children sing or do something at worship?
 - Have Kelly Wheeler, pre-school teacher, encourage involvement in church.
- Look for this information from our website.

Plans for Mother's and Father's Day

- Jan Stites volunteered to purchase a bouquet of flowers for **Mother's Day**. One or two flowers can be taken out as the women leave the sanctuary after the service.
- **Father's Day** idea was pens for the men. We will make a final decision at the May Session meeting.
- **The dues for the Board of Pensions** are increasing. Pastor Tom encouraged WPC to cover the entire family. This will begin in 2025.

Shari Martin, Presbytery liaison, will visit the Session at the May meeting

CONSENT AGENDA

- Receive reports and minutes from committees: B and G from 4-10-24
- Communion served to 47 people in person on April 7, 2024
- Next communion is May 5, 2024
- Next Session meeting is May 28, 2024

Pastor Tom Paine closed the meeting at **7:00 p.m.** with prayer.

Attest: Judy Wilson, Clerk of Session

History Corner #16 May 2024

History of the Art Wall

In **1976**, for the first time in 25 years, our church had a Bazaar. The previous Bazaar in **1951** helped pay for the Education Wing. Now this brick addition to our church was being repainted and the final improvements would be on display at a celebration. Jean Smith and Kaye Kaufman co-chaired this event along with the five circles active in the church: Martha, Alice Miles, Elizabeth Currey, Westernians and Morningtide. This was before Louise Guthner was formed. The event consisted of crafts, games for the children and baked goods for sale in the Country Store, a luncheon and supper. Another purpose of the Bazaar was to carpet the Sanctuary during this improvement project.

Kaye was chairperson for the Art Wall. She featured the work of Rosco Doane, noted Chehalis artist, given by his wife. Also hung along the wall were paintings by local church artists for sale to benefit the Bazaar. The public could walk the halls and make their choices to buy or just enjoy the local art work.

Some of these paintings did not sell and they hung there over the years. In **2009** when Mel and Jean Bluhm and daughter Sheri Davis redid the "Giffey Room", they decided to again feature the Art Wall in the Church. **Picture shows panel walls, books on shelves and overflow of the crowd from the 150 Anniversary supper in the Giffey Room.** Hanging outside the History



Room are interesting creative paintings by members or former members of our congregation for everyone to enjoy. The wall is big enough so if current members wish to place their work on the wall, it would be appreciated. Shirley Nelson, our oldest member who will be 103 July 2, 2024, has one of her paintings there. **Pictures: History Wall & 2 paintings in the remodeled Giffey room.**



A closer look and more information on these beautiful works of art may help appreciate the creative effort the painters put forth to portray a scene worth remembering. Flowers are a favorite subject for many artists, but how each flower is arranged and painted makes each special telling their story.



A church is a growing, spirit filled place to honor and worship the living, Lord. Changes take place, rooms are redone, but the spirit remains the same, a dedication to Jesus who offered us Salvation and gave us our mission to tell others the Good News.

Jean Bluhm historian

Announcements for Sunday, May 5, 2024

Joys/Upcoming Events & Needs

- Happy Birthday to everyone whose birthday is in May.
- Happy Anniversary to all our couples married in May.
- Happy Mother's Day to all our Moms here at WPC.

Concerns

- Keith Conant sked for prayers for Susan's father who will have a biopsy this week. Prayers for the best possible result.
- Prayers for Shirley Nelson's sister, Betty, who has had a stroke. She'll be going to rehab when a space is available.
- Prayers for Mary, who is in the hospital with cancer & kidney problems.
- Prayers for Irene who is beginning chemo treatment.
- Jan & Ron Stites friend, Carla, was just diagnosed with cancer.
- Prayers for Phyllis Crawford, a good member is in a dementia center in Shelton.

Continued Prayers Needed for:

Larry McCool, 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.