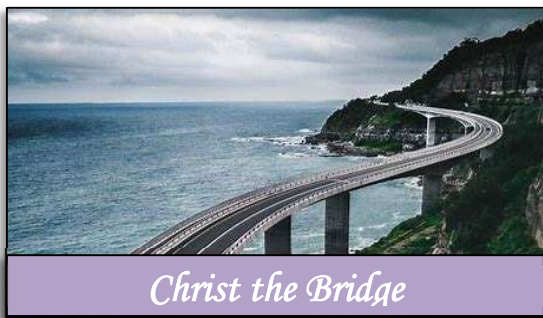




Christ, the Bridge

Perhaps you sometimes take the road out of town towards Georgia. Whether it is Highway 221 towards Augusta, or Highway 72 towards Athens, you're going to have to cross a body of water. It's my favorite part of the drive, the wide expanse of blue between South Carolina and Georgia. Water is often a boundary line—the Savannah, Mississippi, the Ohio, the Great Lakes.



Fortunately, there are bridges across these boundary lines that help us to get from one side to another, say from South Carolina to Georgia, or from one era to the next. The Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama will get you across the

Alabama River, but it is also a symbol of crossing more fully the hope God has for all God's children.

Sometimes bridges are good places to hang out a while... maybe throw a line, catch a fish. Once I happened to be driving on the bridge over Lake Marion on an Easter Sunday morning. A crowd of people had come, leaving their cars on the side of the road, and were standing on the bridge. My fleeting look let me know that they were having an Easter Sunrise Worship service on that bridge.

Jesus, who is at once God & man, comes to us as a bridge between heaven & earth. This Lenten season, we'll be hanging out with Christ, our Bridge. We'll see how Jesus bridges a divide between sisters, Mary and Martha, between enemies and neighbors, and many more divides. We hope that as we hang out with Jesus, our Bridge, we'll come to see the dawn of Easter morning with new eyes, for the beautiful in between.

Your pastor and friend,

 *Caroline*

Lenten Sermon Series: Forty Days In Between

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent is traditionally a season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (caring for the poor), and so it will be for us. In these forty days, we will be following the lovely series from A Sanctified Art: Everything (in) Between, which guides us through the gospel of Luke. Here's how the authors describe the series:

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

“As we study these scriptures, we are struck by how Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted established social, political, and religious divides of his time. The series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to transformation.



Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

And so, in this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond (or between) the categories. This series will speak to anyone who feels as if they are living in a divided world. It is for those who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity rather than avoiding it. This Lent, we are trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.”

March 2: “Called to Make Disciples”

Communion/Food Bank

Conclusion of “Called by God” Series

† Luke 6:17-26; 27-38

† Luke 9:28-35

March 5: “Intention & Action”

Ash Wednesday

Jesus sets out for Jerusalem

† Luke 9:51-62

March 9: “Stranger & Neighbor”

Parable of the Good Samaritan

† Luke 10:25-37

March 16: “Faith & Works”

Mary and Martha host Jesus

† Luke 10:38-42

March 23: “Rest & Growth”

Parable of the Fig Tree

† Luke 13:6-9

March 30: “Lost & Found”

Parable of the Lost Sheep

† Luke 15:1-7

April 6: “Righteousness & Mercy”

Communion/Food Bank

Zacchaeus greets Jesus

† Luke 19:1-10

April 13: “Shouting & Silence”

Palm Sunday

Jesus enters Jerusalem

† Luke 19:29-40

April 17: “Power & Humility, Acceptance & Resistance”

The Last Supper

† Luke 22:1-17

Jesus dies alongside a penitent thief

† Luke 23:32-49

April 20: “Grief & Hope”

The women grieve and Peter runs to the tomb

† Luke 24:1-12

“Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted established social, political, and religious divides of his time.”

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Westminster Happenings

**Saturday
March 1** | **Crazy Heart Meditation Community**
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.
Practice patience in your meditation discipline.

**Sunday
March 2** | **Sunday School**
Adults & Youth: Remain in Fellowship Hall for 9:00 A.M. group study.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
Called to Make Disciples
Communion/Food Bank Collection
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Listen for the many ways God is calling you to discipleship.

**Monday
March 3** | **Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**
Look for the Monday prayer list email and click on the Zoom link at noon.
Pray together for this congregation, for friends, and for the larger world.
BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday
March 4** | **Shrove Tuesday—Mardi Gras** (*see page 9*)
Presbyterian Women's Circle
Gather at Wesley Commons at 11:30 A.M. (*see page 9*)
Explore environmental issues via this year's study, *Let Justice Roll Down*.
Crazy Heart Meditation Community
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 P.M.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Matthew 3:2

**Wednesday
March 5** | **Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins** (*see page 9*)
Community Lenten Lunch Series (*see page 9*)
Gather at First Baptist Church for worship at 12:30 P.M.
Enjoy a light lunch before (12:00 Noon) or after (1:00 P.M.) the service.
Note: Books & Brown Bags will not meet
Ash Wednesday Service
Communion
Worship at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary
Experience the imposition of ashes, a ceremony of repentance.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Thursday
March 6 | **Rainbow Fellowship**
Connect with friends in the Youth Room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.
Make a difference by making sandwiches for the Soup Kitchen.

Saturday
March 8 | **Crazy Heart Meditation Community**
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday
March 9 | **Sunday School**
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Stranger & Neighbor
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Hear how Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan redefines *neighbor*.

Session Meeting
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 11:15 A.M.
Conduct the business of the church as directed by the Holy Spirit.

Monday
March 10 | **Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**
Look for the Monday prayer list email and click on the Zoom link at noon.
Share your praises, intercessions, and supplications with our loving God.

BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday
March 11 | **Crazy Heart Meditation Community**
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
March 12 | **Community Lenten Lunch Series**
Gather at Immanuel Lutheran Church for worship at 12:30 P.M.
Enjoy a light lunch before (12:00 Noon) or after (1:00 P.M.) the service.

Books & Brown Bags Study Group (*see page 8*)
Bring a sack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. We will discuss the last chapter of Inspired: "Church Stories."

Thursday
March 13 | **Rainbow Fellowship**
Connect with friends in the Youth Room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.
Enjoy lively Bible discussion and creative crafts.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Saturday | **Crazy Heart Meditation Community**
March 15 | Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday | **Sunday School**
March 16 | Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Faith & Works
Camp Fellowship Special Offering
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Sit at Jesus' feet to soak in His words—let the housework wait!

Sunday Sustenance
Stay for a relaxed lunch provided by Chef Rob and his sous chefs.
Bring some extra cash to contribute to camperships (*see page 11*).

Monday | **Saint Patrick's Day** (*see page 10*)
March 17 | **BEMA Bible Discussion Group**
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday | **Crazy Heart Meditation Community**
March 18 | Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday | **Community Lenten Lunch Series**
March 19 | Gather at Greenwood ARP Church for worship at 12:30 P.M.
Enjoy a light lunch before (12:00 Noon) or after (1:00 P.M.) the service.

Books & Brown Bags Study Group
Bring a sack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
We begin our discussion of the Lenten Devotion book.

Thursday | **End of Life Seminar Series: Taking Care with a Few Last Things**
March 20 | Come to the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 P.M.—program begins at 5:30 P.M.
Learn how funeral pre-planning benefits everyone (*see page 11*).

Saturday | **Crazy Heart Meditation Community**
March 22 | Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday
March 23 | Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
Rest & Growth
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Tend to your spiritual growth, so that good fruit will result.
<i>Note: Pastor Caroline Dennis will be out of town starting this Sunday afternoon, returning Sunday, March 30</i> |
| Monday
March 24 | <i>Note: No Upper Zoom meeting this week</i>
BEMA Bible Discussion Group
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. |
| Tuesday
March 25 | Crazy Heart Meditation Community
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 P.M.
Interfaith Dialogue
Gather in the Youth Room at 7:00 P.M.
Topic this month; What happens when you die? |
| Wednesday
March 26 | Community Lenten Lunch Series
Gather at South Main Baptist Church for worship at 12:30 P.M.
Enjoy a light lunch before (12:00 Noon) or after (1:00 P.M.) the service.
Books & Brown Bags Study Group
Bring a sack supper to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Continue digging into the messy middle of <i>Everything [In] Between</i> |
| Saturday
March 29 | Crazy Heart Meditation Community
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M. |
| Sunday
March 30 | Sunday School
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
Lost & Found
<i>Guest Preacher: Elliot Gargus (see page 15)</i>
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Ponder the value of recovering even one stray sheep.
Western Cluster Fifth Sunday Event (see page 14)
Meet at Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church at 4:00 P.M.
Hear lecture entitled "The Book of Revelation: All Creation's Halleluiah." |

Holy Week Schedule Preview



Sunday
April 13

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.

Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Power & Humility

Palm Sunday

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Wave your palm branch and shout “Hosannah—save us, Lord!”

Easter Egg Hunt

Bring a basket to the Courtyard at 3:00 P.M.

Find out what goodies are hidden among the plants and flowers.

Thursday
April 17

Power & Humility, Acceptance & Resistance

Maundy Thursday/Communion

Worship at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary.

Feel the love, the fear, and the reality of Christ’s crucifixion.

Sunday
April 20

Easter Sunday

Flowering the Cross

Bring flowers to the Courtyard at 9:00 A.M. to reclaim the cross.

Celebrate the Resurrection with singing and feasting!

Grief & Hope

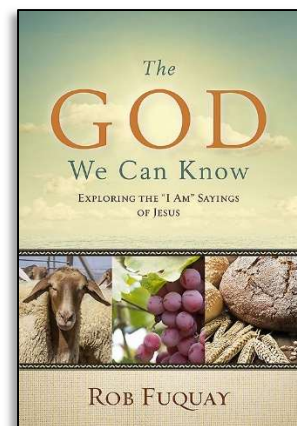
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Relive the joy and relief of finding that the tomb is empty!

Adult Sunday Study: Do You Know God? *Can You?*

During March and April, the Adult Sunday morning study will visit the Holy Land (via DVD) to find *The God We Can Know: Exploring the “I AM” Sayings of Jesus*. This study by Rob Fuquay will use the Gospel According to John to help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, asked by Jesus of his Disciples: “Who do you say I am?”

According to the publisher, “One by one, Jesus’s statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first ‘I am.’ These significant, yet ordinary, images (bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more) give us insightful ways to experience Jesus and point us to a God who wants to be known. The DVD, filmed on location in the Holy Land, allows you to travel with Rob Fuquay and actually see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing his true identity, and in what context he spoke each ‘I Am.’”

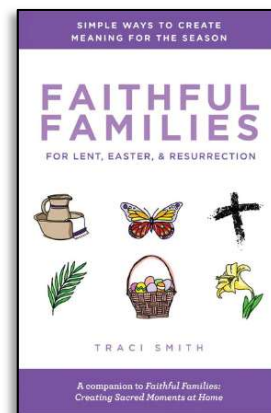


Children's Class Learning About Lent

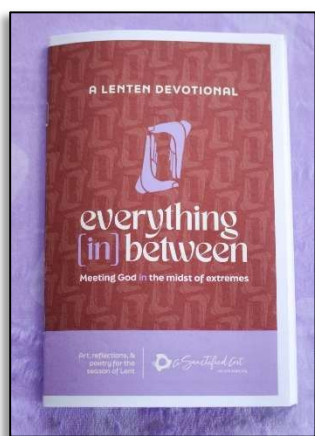
Submitted by Kathy Gillespie

During February, the children began learning scriptures by heart, starting with verses about love. In March they will continue learning memory verses and they will write and illustrate the scriptures in memory verse journals.

Throughout Lent, the students will also learn about Lenten symbols and traditions. Some of the activities that we will be involved in were inspired by the book, *Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, and Resurrection*, by Traci Smith. This book makes a great gift for families with children! See page 23 for more great ideas from this excellent resource.



I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made ~ Psalm 139:14a



Books & Brown Bags: Lenten Study

Wednesday, March 12th, 19th, and 26th

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Joe Gettys Room

Books & Brown Bags will be studying *A Lenten Devotional: Everything [In] Between*, from A Sanctified Art. LLC. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, this weekly devotional follows the scriptures of the *Everything In Between* series through Easter Sunday. Each week offers: commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, hymns, and reflection prompts.

The entire congregation is invited to use this same devotional material with your family. If you don't already share a regular family prayer time, Lent is the perfect opportunity to enrich your life by adding this small but powerful spiritual discipline to your week.

Printed copies will be available in the Narthex. *A Lenten Devotional: Everything [In] Between* is also available as an ebook for your phone or computer.

Reflection on the Theme of *Everything [In] Between*

“The story of Lent is a story of messy middles. Jesus is on the road, but he’s not there yet. Jesus is telling stories, but the crowds don’t understand. Jesus is leading a parade, but it’s not the one they expected. Jesus is risen, but the disciples can’t forget the cross. The story of Lent, the story of our faith, is a story of messy middles and nuanced surprises. So this Lent, we are remembering that faith is more complex than this-or-that, black-or-white, true-or-false storytelling. This Lent, we are wading into the middle of these sacred texts to find God and to stretch our own understanding beyond the binaries our world so often gives. And we hope you’ll join us. Welcome to an in-between Lent. This is the light before the dawn.”

— Rev. Sarah Speed, Founding Creative Partner

Uncommon Women Meet for PW at Wesley Commons

Submitted by Beth Hammond

Westminster's Presbyterian Women will gather on Tuesday, March 4, at 11:30 A.M., at Wesley Commons, for lunch, Bible study, and our monthly business meeting.



Following lunch, the Bible study will focus on chapter seven, Economic Climate Justice, of the PW study book, *Let Justice Roll Down*.

We will conclude with our monthly business meeting, led by our Moderator, Beth Hammond.

Following Jesus to the Cross: Lenten Luncheons

Traditionally, churches in Greenwood, South Carolina, visit one another on Wednesdays during Lent.

Each week, the host church provides a worship service at 12:30 P.M. A light lunch is offered both before (at Noon) and after (at 1:00 P.M.). A \$2.00 donation is requested for lunch. Offerings collected during worship go to benefit Greater Greenwood United Ministries.

Mark your Spring calendar now to enrich your Lenten season:

- † March 5 – First Baptist Church
- † March 12 – Immanuel Lutheran
- † March 19 – Greenwood ARP
- † March 26 – South Main Baptist
- † April 2 – Main Street UMC
- † April 9 – First Presbyterian Church
- † April 16 – Morris Chapel

What is *Shrove Tuesday*?

From Britannica Online

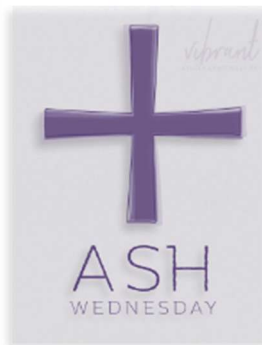
Shrove Tuesday is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday (see below), the beginning of Lent in Western churches. *Shrove*, derived from *shrive*, refers to the confession of sins before Lent, a usual practice in Europe in the Middle Ages.

Although the day is sometimes still used for self-examination and introspection, Shrove Tuesday eventually acquired the character of a carnival or festival in many places and is often celebrated with parades; e.g., Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As the final day before the austerity of the Lenten fast, Shrove Tuesday also has many customs pertaining to food. Pancakes are traditional in a number of European countries because eggs, sugar, and fat, commonly forbidden during the Lenten fast, are used up so they will not go to waste.

What is *Ash Wednesday*?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent. This transformational season moves us from sin to salvation, as we hear the epic stories of our faith and contemplate our place in them.



The sign we receive on Ash Wednesday, ashes in the shape of a cross, is a reminder of both our mortality and our salvation. We come to this service to confess, perhaps even to claim our emptiness, and to be filled again, created again, by the life renewing Spirit of God, made known to us in the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus.



What is *Lent*?

Lent is a season of 40 days, beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 5th this year) and ending on the Thursday (April 17th) before Good Friday. Just as Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ, Lent is a season of waiting and preparing for the new life we have come to know in Christ, a life of intimate connection with God and neighbor, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Biblically, 40 is a number that signifies transformation. Through prayer and devotional practices, we hope to grow through these 40 days. Plan to join us at Westminster as we begin the Lenten Season together with our Ash Wednesday service on March 5th.

Did you do the math? Why are there more than 40 days between those two dates? Because each Sunday is a little Easter!

Count all the days *except* the Sundays, and you should come up with 40. Many people commit to a discipline during the 40 days of Lent, like the discipline of doing a small kindness every day, or the discipline of dedicating a period of time each day to prayer, or the discipline of giving up something that may stand in the way of your commitment to loving God and neighbor, like television or chocolate.

What will you do in these 40 days to open yourself up to the way that God is shaping you for a resurrected life?

Who Was St. Patrick?

Downloaded from Britannica.com

St. Patrick's Day is the traditional Catholic feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 CE to convert the Irish to Christianity.

By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him—for



example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the three-leaf shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.



While the real St. Patrick probably didn't know anything about green beer or corned beef and cabbage dinners, he knew a great deal about crafting effective and beautiful prayers, many of which have been cherished throughout the centuries. Here's a blessing that is attributed to St. Patrick:

May the strength of God pilot us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us.
May the shield of God defend us.
May the host of God guard us against
the snares of evil
and the temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us,
Christ before us,
Christ in us,
Christ over us.
May your salvation, O Lord,
be always ours
this day and forevermore. *Amen!*

March 16: Growing Disciples by Sponsoring Youth Camperships



Westminster has a long-standing partnership with Camp Fellowship, now known as Camping Ministries of the Carolinas. Throughout the 40+ years of our history, Westminster youth have found a summer session at Camp Fellowship to be a life-changing experience. Just last year, Chase Gear had his first camping adventure in fellowship and faith.

One way Westminster supports Camp Fellowship is by funding “camperships,” so that young people do not miss out on fun and faith formation because of financial constraints. On Sunday, March 16, the Mission & Outreach Committee is sponsoring a special “campership” offering. Last year, you generously contributed \$1,061 to this excellent mission activity. Let’s see if we can’t exceed that happy number with an even larger offering this year!



The Rev. Spears Alexander shares these thoughts about camping for youth development

Camps have always been a large part of my early memories of growing up, whether church camps or scout camps—I attended both in my early teens. My church camp was located in Flat Rock, NC at the conference center of the A. R. Presbyterians, called Bonclarken. My Scout Camp was called Camp Palmetto, because it was the camp of the Palmetto Council of the BSA, located in Saluda, NC. Both of these camps contributed a great deal to my early years of trying to

understand my abilities and find my place in God’s Big World.

As a parent, I encouraged my children to follow my path, which they did, attending church camps at Montreat and Camp Grier, and Scout Camp at Raven Knob. With camps being so much a part of my life, it was not a hard decision for me to make when I was asked to be on the Board of Camp Fellowship. I agreed, and have served two terms on the Board.

Church camps are having a tough time financially. Camp Fellowship is one of only two Presbyterian camps in SC still running. Five have closed in the past several years. Camp Fellowship was once fully funded by Trinity Presbytery; however, this is no longer the case. Fellowship is now a 501(c)3 organization, able to seek contributions, grants, or other funds on its own. Both Trinity and Foothills Presbyteries provide some funds to the camp, but not all that is needed. Trinity Presbytery still owns the facility, but the Board hopes to be able to buy the property someday soon.

I have come to respect the idea that this is a team effort, not just to maintain the physical property, but also to keep alive the spirit of a very special place dear to the hearts of Presbyterians in the upcountry and beyond. This spirit calls us to continue providing opportunities that can impact the lives of folks of all ages: opportunities to experience growth in worship, renewal, rest, and recreation in a beautiful setting. On March 16, a special offering will give you the chance to join our team from Camp Fellowship as we seek funding for the camp and its programs. Thanks for your consideration!

End of Life
TAKING CARE WITH A FEW LAST THINGS
A SEVEN PART SERIES

March 20 Topic:
Celebrating Life—Making
Funeral Plans

Fellowship Hall
Doors open: 5:00 P.M.
Program begins: 5:30 P.M.
Note: Session does not include dinner



Put March 20th on your calendar for the next part of Westminster’s End-of-Life series. Guest speaker Carol Harley will offer guidance on the why’s and how’s of pre-planning for funeral home options and celebration of life services.

Pre-planning your funeral should be a natural part of life, because it provides you with time to make end-of-life decisions in a calm and rational atmosphere. It allows you to clearly express your wishes, and gives your survivors great peace of mind, knowing that they aren’t expected to make these important decisions while they are grieving.

Our speaker, Carol, and her husband, Ruple Harley III, are third-generation owners of Harley Funeral Home & Crematory Service. She is a licensed funeral director with the funeral home. Carol is an active member of the Greenwood Rotary Club, and is a Paul Harris Fellow. She is currently serving as secretary of the Executive Board of the South Carolina Funeral Directors Association. Additionally, she serves on the Executive Board of The Museum, sits on the Board of Directors for the Greenwood County Community Foundation, and is a member of Greenwood Women Care. In keeping with family tradition, she has chaired the S. C. Festival of Flowers. Ruple and Carol are active members of Main Street United Methodist Church, where Carol serves as chairman of the Worship Committee and is the Communion Steward.

Westminster has orchestrated this multi-part series to meet the unique needs of older adults, for those who love and care for them, and for those who will someday be older adults. Taking care with a few last things brings peace to this season of life for those going through it and those who care for them. You are encouraged to share this invitation with your friends and family who have similar interests.

Future Topics

- April 24: Good Grief**
Jessica Jacobs, Director of Behavioral Health for Carolina Health Centers
Caroline Dennis, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church
- May 15: Caring for the Caregivers: Upper Savannah Council on Aging**
Aeriell Bowick, Family Caregiver Advocate
Christy Stroud, Medicare Counselor

In the Spotlight: Tim & Mary Rogers

Westminster is delighted to welcome Tim and Mary Rogers as new members of our congregation! To help you get acquainted, the Rogers have graciously answered our silly...er, traditional... questions below, and also provided a quick biographical blurb. Of course, by now you have *probably* already encountered them, given the energy and love with which they have embraced life here at WPC! They are already regulars at adult Sunday study, Books & Brown Bags, and of course, Sunday morning worship. Welcome, Mary and Tim!



1. **What gives you joy?** Mary loves meditation, art, traveling, walking on the beach and sunrises. Tim enjoys working outside, global politics, guitar, travel, and genealogy.
2. **What's your favorite piece of music?** Mary: "Don't Know Why" by Norah Jones.
Tim: Any song by James Taylor.
3. **What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Mary: art and reading.
Tim: being outside and house projects.
4. **What do you like about WPC?** Mary & Tim: the people, worship and "Books and Brown Bags."

Mary grew up in Rocky Mount, NC, graduated from ECU in elementary education, and taught second grade in Lexington County. Tim graduated from Wofford College and had a career with state government in Columbia. In retirement, they enjoy traveling and visiting family and grandson in Charleston. (*grandson, daughter-in-law, and son, at right*). They also like vacationing on Edisto Island.



Consider the Lilies...

To beautify our sacred Sanctuary space during Easter, we traditionally invite everyone to sponsor an Easter Lily. After worship, donors are encouraged to take their flower home to enjoy or share.

If you would like to sponsor an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of someone special, look for order forms on the table in the Narthex. Each lily costs \$20. The deadline for placing orders is April 11.



New Online WPC Directory

You can now access the Westminster church directory online—and you are invited to enrich your listing with photos and make updates when your information changes. The basics are already uploaded. Be sure to review your entry!

Here's the link:

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You can also download the app on the Apple Store and Google Play Store J.

Reason to Celebrate: Part I

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with March birthdays:

- ❖ 1st – Tim Mossman
- ❖ 4th – Steve Kuhl & Sarah Parks
- ❖ 6th – Curtis Autry & Theresa Jacobs
- ❖ 10th – Tiffany Wilkens
- ❖ 13th – Hunter Raborn
- ❖ 21st – Caris Broadway
- ❖ 26th – Heather McDonald
- ❖ 28th – Rob Graves
- ❖ 30th – Jimmy Corley



Additionally, let's rejoice with these fine couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month:

- ❖ 4th – Caroline & Phillip Dennis
- ❖ 31st – Charisma & Joseph Broadway

Reason to Celebrate: Part II

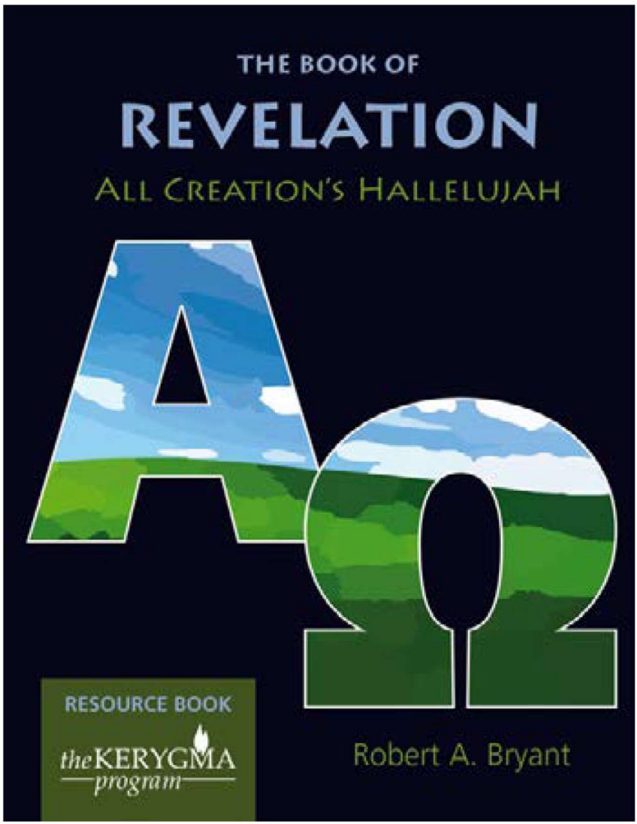
On Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, the only people happier than raving Eagles fan Bill Kimler were Mission & Outreach co-



chairs, Laine Horowitz and Richard Wilson. Laine and Richard had challenged the Westminster congregation to raise \$1,000 for

the Greenwood Food Bank in response to the annual Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser. ***And we did it!***

Because of your willingness to follow Jesus by caring for the poor, many people in our community enjoyed full sacks of groceries and not empty bowls. That is, indeed, something to celebrate!



Fifth Sunday Program
Sponsored by Trinity Presbytery
Western Cluster of Churches

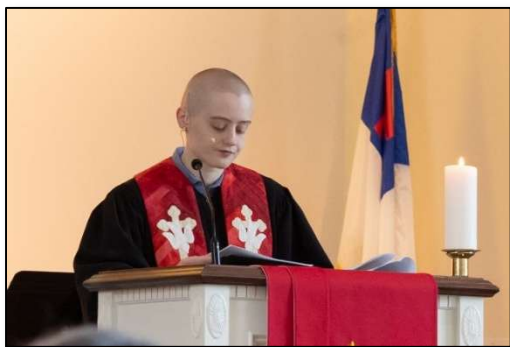
Dr. Bob Bryant
Kristen Herrington Professor of Bible
at Presbyterian College

The Book of Revelation
and prophecy about end times

* Dr. Bryant's Talk *
* Q&A/Conversation *
* Reception *

Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church
194 Highway 20
Abbeville, SC

March 30, 2025, 4:00 pm



March 30 Guest Preacher: Elliot Gargus

Westminster is blessed to count several pastors as part of our church family, and we are excited to have “one of our own” helming the pulpit on Sunday, March 30. Elliot Gargus will lead worship and preach on the theme of “Lost & Found,” as part of our Lenten series.

Elliot is an ordained minister through the United Church of Christ and a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Previously, they worked as a chaplain in a children's hospital. Elliot is currently working on a Master's degree in Counseling, and hopes to work in the intersection of faith and mental health after graduation. Elliot lives with husband, Michael, and two cats, Blue and Sammy.

Red Letter Day, April 1, 2025

Submitted by Ginny Cartee

A place set apart and time to breathe, slow down and reset—we all need safe places and special times to collect ourselves, fix our faces, gather a healing spirit, and move forward. Red Letter Day, an event hosted by Fellowship Camp and Conference Center, is exactly that sort of space, serving the needs of cancer survivors and their caregivers.



Without ever mentioning the word *cancer*, these days are designed to help participants sort out emotions and find purpose and meaning through interactions with a network of like-minded people. This is a time to sit in a rocker beside the lake and talk, enjoy playing outside, and find meaning in an ever-changing world. This is also a time to explore crafting, conversation, and building relationships beyond the burdens of diagnosis. This is a special time of hope provided at no cost to participants by our Camp Fellowship ministry partners.

The idea for these day retreats sprang from a Presbytery Women's retreat. While walking along the shoreline, a small group conversation turned to the importance of getting away from the stresses of daily life. For the cancer survivors in the group, the seeds were planted. Volunteers from Laurens, Greenwood, and Greenville were recruited to facilitate programming, and funding was gathered for lunch and supplies. Area survivor support organizations were contacted and encouraged to invite patients, caregivers, and providers to be a part of a fun day at the lake—and so it has been for nearly a decade. Red Letter Days are still celebrated several times each year at camp. The invitation to enjoy hope and connection for anyone touched by cancer in a space set apart is still valid. Registration is open on the camp website (campfellowship.org). Please share this invitation with friends and family!

April 1, 2025 – 10:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Camp Fellowship

457 Camp Fellowship Road

Waterloo, South Carolina 29384




Including, Abiding, Enjoying, Following, and Growing

A series exploring Westminster's foundational statements and strategic intention

If you've been on the back hallway near the office lately, you've seen this poster on the bulletin board. In the coming weeks and months, you'll see it popping up in more places around campus in various sizes and formats.


Why??? Because your Pastor and Session hope that you—that **every** person in our congregation—will carry this concise Mission Statement in your heart and mind, both to inform your own faith journey and to communicate as a witness to others.



The Mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Called to be an inclusive community of faith,
abiding in God's love, and committed to:

Enjoying God,
Following Jesus, and
Growing Disciples



While all churches are part of the Body of Christ and share a common mission, this statement attempts to articulate what makes our *particular* congregation unique. The 22 words of this statement were chosen with great care, as were the graphic embellishments of the poster. Here are a few of the messages embedded our Mission Statement:

- † *Abiding, enjoying, following, and growing* are all verbs—action words. James reminds us that “faith without works is dead.” So our “inclusive community of faith” constantly puts our faith to work in those ways.
- † *Enjoying God* describes our fundamental relationship with God. For those steeped in Presbyterian liturgy and tradition, it's a shout-out to the first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism, written in the 1600s: “*Q. What is the chief end of man? A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to **enjoy God** forever.*” For outsiders, especially those who have had bad experiences with church in the past, an emphasis on *enjoying* God just seems downright weird, and may pique their interest in getting to know more about us.
- † *Following Jesus*—easy to say, hard to do. But it's the whole point!
- † *Growing Disciples* speaks to our individual and collective need to *always* seek spiritual growth. It also speaks to our imperative to share the love and gospel of Christ with every person, everywhere, and to help them grow into discipleship.
- † Those corner clusters of our Westminster window logo are designed to resemble cogs working together in a larger mechanism, much as we work together to accomplish our work of including, abiding, enjoying, following, and growing. You should also remember that *you* are a beloved COG: a **Child Of God**.

Next month: What is our *vision*—how do we and the world look when we are fully living into our mission?

Stewardship Snapshot

The Stewardship Snapshot is a regular report from the Session to the *Westminster Times* newsletter. Please note that because of the newsletter publication schedule vs. timing of month-end close, these reports will typically be about six weeks behind.



January 2025

	January Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$35,520	\$20,295	\$35,520	\$20,295
Total Expenses <i>(includes Major Capital Expenditures)</i>	\$21,252	\$19,796	\$21,252	\$19,796
Net Gain/Loss	\$14,268		\$14,268	

Net revenues for the month were \$35,520 versus expenses of \$21,252 for a net gain of \$14,268. This gain was due to several **non-recurring** income and expense items.

Income:

- Member pledge contributions exceeded budget by \$9,400 primarily due to two members donating their entire annual pledge amounts in lump sum.
- Toddler Learning Center paid \$4,500 for six months lease credit.
- There was a one-time \$1,100 donation pre-paying for multiple sanctuary flower displays.

Committee expenses were in good control. Other Expense items:

- Routine Capital expenses were \$1,575 for roof repairs (leaks around steeple).
- Administrative Expense charge of \$2,810 for returned checks received in 2024.

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer Len Bornemann or to the Business Affairs Committee.

Mental Health Awareness in March

Excerpted from <https://americanbehavioralclinics.com/raising-awareness-for-mental-health-in-march-key-dates-and-how-you-can-help/>



March is a significant month for mental health awareness, with several key days dedicated to increasing understanding and breaking the stigma around mental health conditions. These observances provide opportunities for education, advocacy, and support:

- March 1 – Self-Injury Awareness Day
- March 2 – World Teen Mental Wellness Day
- March 5 – Dissociative Identity Disorder Awareness Day
- March 30 – World Bipolar Day

Mental health awareness days serve as vital reminders that mental health struggles are real and that support is available. By recognizing these days, we can create a society that fosters compassion and understanding for those experiencing mental health challenges.

Let Us Pray...

"Pray without ceasing"
1 Thessalonians 5:17



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

- John Bacot
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Kathy Felder
- Lucia Horowitz
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Savanah & Briar Rose
- Dashe & Aaron Hoang
- Claire Kuhl
- Tim Mossman
- Kim Purcell
- Ed Watkins
- The Watkins Family
- Mary Anne Wilson
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- Our pastor & her family

We pray daily for our prayer partners and their special concerns. We pray for our sister churches: New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and others.

We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank
- Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- Community Initiatives
- Toddler Learning Center
- Trinity Presbytery



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for members of our wider community (and our connection to them):

- Dan Blimline (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- The Cauley Family
- John Gettys
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Frances Garrin (*Mary Anne*)
- Amy Jennings (*Denise*)
- Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Dabney Mahanes (*Denise*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Amy Jennings (*Denise*)
- Patricia Lytle (*Beth*)
- Tarri McKinney (*Suzy*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Cameron Murphy (*Sarah*)
- Richard Pinkney (*Len*)
- Meg Templin
- Heath & Peggy Rada (*Joyce*)
- Tatum Foley (*Heather*)



For the World

We pray for our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love:

- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For those who have been affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Syria, and elsewhere
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For all who experience exclusion, or who struggle to meet basic needs
- For unity among Christians in every congregation, country, and corner of the world

And God Saw That It was Good



Four new picnic tables were given (three by an anonymous donor and one by our Presbyterian Women) **in memory of Lynn Bornemann** to commemorate the magnitude and variety of ways she shared her love and talents with her Westminster family. We've been enjoying this gift for a while, and now, plaques noting this dedication have been affixed to each table.

We asked Lynn's great friend, Mary Anne Wilson, to share with us some thoughts about Lynn.

"For those of you who never had the opportunity to know Lynn, you missed an angel on this earth. Picture a smiling face, always going about her Master's business. Lynn wore many hats, but those I remember best were her hours of leadership with our youth in the 1980s, as well as the work she did preparing and outfitting our children's rooms and their curriculum many years later. Lynn's children's sermons at Westminster on Sunday mornings were always a joy for the children and the entire WPC family! She enriched all of our lives."

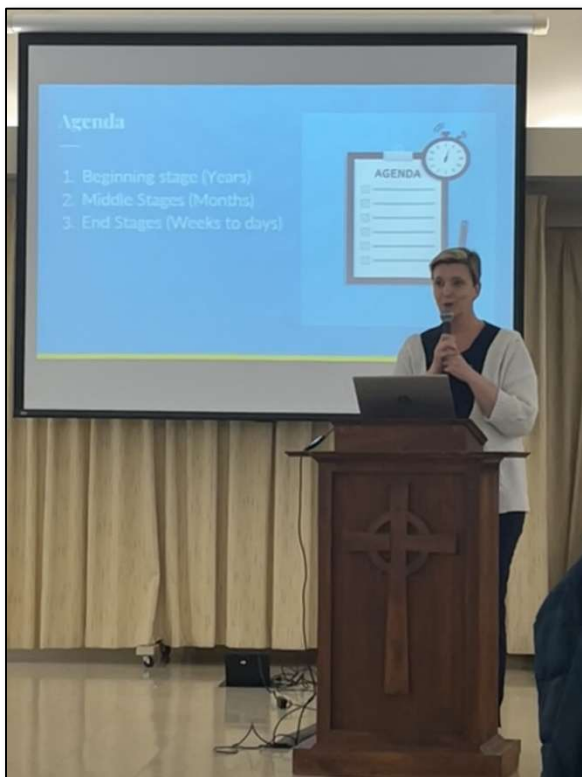


The Books & Brown Bags gang celebrates Lucia's birthday together.

Westminster Women Making a Difference



Presbyterian Women share a tasty lunch and a lively lesson, taught by guest speaker Gloria Christie (second from right).



Dr. Nancy Hart Wicker provided helpful insights on the many ways that hospice care improves end-of-life experiences.



Beth Hammond wrangles a recalcitrant tree limb as part of the WPC workday at the Alexander farm (*more next page*).

Fun Times at the Alexander's Farm



Welcoming Baby James Daniel Warner



WPC's "church ladies" showered office manager Charleston Warner with books.

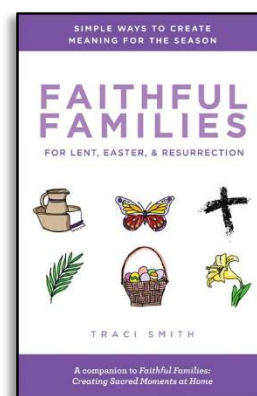


A New Way to Tell an Old Story

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie

How do you share the deep mysteries of Lent, Easter, and Resurrection with children? In her book *Faithful Families: Lent, Easter, and Resurrection*, author, mother and Presbyterian minister Traci Smith shares practices for faithful families to try.

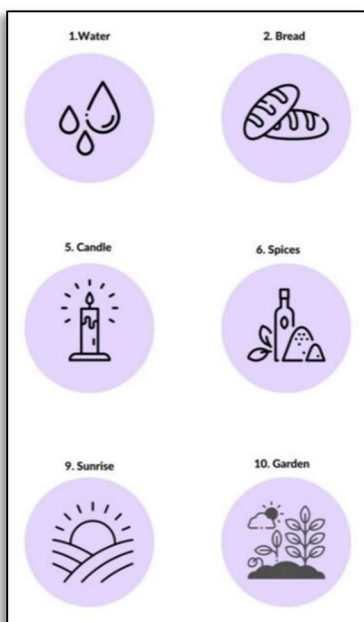
One of the practices is an alternative to the Resurrection Eggs that have been around for decades. Resurrection Eggs can be a teaching tool for the story of Christ's death and resurrection.



If you're not familiar with them, Resurrection eggs tell the story of Christ's death and resurrection by using twelve small symbols, each hidden inside a plastic Easter egg. One at a time, each egg is opened, the symbol taken out, and part of the story is told. The symbols vary depending on which version of Resurrection eggs one uses, but most feature items such as a tiny crown of thorns representing the one placed on Jesus' head to mock and humiliate him, nails to remember Christ's being nailed to the cross, and a spear to remember how Jesus was pierced in the side.

No one could argue that the symbols used in the resurrection eggs aren't biblical. The crown of thorns, nails, and spear are all in the story—but are these details of Jesus' death so essential that they must be taught year after year, and lifted up over and against other symbols of Jesus' life, death, and ministry?

For me, the answer is no. Please don't misunderstand: I am not saying we should edit out the hard parts because they are hard. Children are very capable of understanding and



grappling with hard and painful realities. Christianity has rich symbology that extends beyond the symbols of torture and death. We can tell the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus using a more holistic group of symbols, also drawn from the Bible.

In her book, Traci Smith offers twelve symbols, each from the Bible: four symbols represent Jesus' life, four represent his death, and four represent his resurrection. You can use these symbols to create your own set of Resurrection eggs. The book includes short reflections individually to reflect on specific parts of Jesus' story.

However you use these symbols, I hope they will open your eyes to the possibilities for reimagining which symbols we lift up as we teach our children about Jesus.

You can download and print the symbols from Smith's Facebook page or her website. <https://tracismith.com/eggs/>

In our children's class at Westminster, we will use a set of these eggs during the first three Sundays in April. Each Sunday we will open four eggs and learn about the symbols inside. We will then hang the symbols on our "Lenten Tree." I hope you will join us!



Noye's Fludde

a community church opera
by Benjamin Britten

*Featuring children and youth from the Greenwood community
as the animals and birds in the ark,
local youth and Lander University students as Noye's family,
Metropolitan Opera singers Kyle Pfortmiller as Noye and Kirstin Chavez as Noye's Wife,
Broadway star Stacey Robinson as the Voice of God*

Ellen D. Schlaefel, *director*
Keith Jameson, *conductor*

Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14 at 6:00pm
First Baptist Church of Greenwood, SC Sanctuary
722 Grace Street, Greenwood 29649

FREE ADMISSION

For information, call (864) 229-5557 or visit www.fbcgwd.org