MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Help Provide a Child in Need with a Fresh Start to the School Year!

Since 2007, Westminster has worked with elementary schools in Wilmington to provide students in need with new backpacks filled with school supplies. In the first year of the project, we filled and donated 200 backpacks. We have gradually increased the number of backpacks and participating schools over the years, working our way up to 600 backpacks and four schools (EastSide Charter, Highlands Elementary, Shortlidge Academy and Urban Promise as well as students identified through Family Promise) last year. Your generosity has made a real difference in the lives of these children as they start school afresh.

This year, the uncertainties caused by the coronavirus pandemic are causing us to take a somewhat different approach to this project. At this time, the schools are unsure of their schedules and logistics for re-opening and many people who have happily shopped for supplies in the past may prefer to put off their return to local stores. As the start of the school year comes closer, we will work with each of our Backpacks partner schools to determine how best to support their students with the supplies that will help them succeed. Working together in creative new ways will be an important step in addressing some of the financial inequities that exist in our city.

Continued on page 3
As you read these words, what I have to say may seem like old news. As I write, our world has been flipped on its head by a global pandemic, convulsed by nationwide protests, and rattled by an economic recession. Not one of these was on the radar just a few months ago, so it’s possible that by the time you read this column some new catastrophe has struck. Let us hope and pray that we can manage all of these major events with grace and determination.

I would not be surprised if protests are continuing and, along with these, that there will be numerous efforts underway to reform policing policies and our criminal justice system. I hope all of us will be going out of our way to extend respect and dignity to people of another race.

Racism has proven to be a nearly impossible demon to slay, and knowing the human proclivity to sin, I suspect that discrimination may never be fully eradicated. Yet, even though we may never fully banish it, this feels like a different moment from past times. The enormous numbers of young people and white people in the crowds reveal that it is not only blacks who are fed up with police violence toward African Americans. Most people deeply desire a new day in race relations. The ideals of liberty and justice that have eluded all Americans throughout our history are beckoning us once again. Is this the moment we capitulate because the work we need to accomplish appears too daunting? Or is this the moment we persist in changing laws that discriminate and changing practices that favor one race over another and changing attitudes of suspicion based on the color of another human being’s skin?

Presbyterians must be among the leaders in improving race relations because we possess a history we need to overcome. You may be aware that some of the first Protestant churches in our country were begun nearby thanks to the efforts of the Reverend Francis Makemie in the 17th Century. You may not know that he owned slaves. Further, a Presbyterian minister in Wilmington incited a crowd to lynch George White in 1903.

While we can never undo the past, we can help lay the groundwork for a better tomorrow. Doing what each of us can do to correct the sins in our past is what confession and redemption are all about.

Along with other ministers in our presbytery, I have signed a statement addressing racism from our perspective as Presbyterians and as members of New Castle Presbytery. I encourage you to read it by clicking here.
On a very positive note, during this global pandemic, the response of our church family to the food insecure in our community has been amazing. More than 100 families have contributed sandwiches, bottles of water, fruit, coffee, eggs, and cookies to Emmanuel Dining Room, Friendship House, and bags full of non-perishables to Hanover Food Closet. By the time you read this, it is likely that we will have contributed more than 25,000 sandwiches and 3,000 boiled eggs! The numbers express the generosity of our church family to care for those in need.

I look forward to the day we can safely gather for worship in our sanctuary and chapel – and that day will come! Until then, I hope you are participating in our online services, which you may watch at any time. Go to the homepage of our website and click on “Details” under the box that says: “Sunday Worship.” Then, click where it says “Click here to watch our virtual service on YouTube.” I look forward to you joining me for worship!

Blessings,

We ask your generous support of this year’s Backpacks project by donating $10 (which would cover the cost of a backpack and supplies for an elementary school student in need) for as many students as you are able to help. Please make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write “Backpacks” in the memo line.

And mark your calendars for Sunday, August 16, when our pastors will again hold our “Blessing of the Backpacks” as part of our worship services, helping launch the school year with God’s abundant blessings and the love and support of our church family.

Please contact Jennifer Steiner (302-425-5008), Rachel Psaros (302-427-0258) or Sue Linderman (302-239-7650) if you have any questions.

Thanks so much for your continued support of the Backpacks Project!
Hello Westminster!

Thank you for the invitation to serve as your next Director of Music and Organist. I am deeply grateful to Barbara Jobe and the search committee for putting their trust in me, and I look forward to working alongside Greg and Sudie and the tremendous lay leadership this congregation is blessed to have.

Although my official duties will not begin until August 1, I want you to know that I have been worshipping with you for many months thanks to the power of the Internet. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sharon Babcock for her superb leadership as Interim Music Director, to the choral section leaders for their weekly online hymn singing, and to Susan Spilecki for maintaining the church’s powerful voice in the community through the tower bells.

In addition to my work at Westminster, I am Director of Development and Communications for the American Guild of Organists, a national professional association for organists and choral conductors. My work for the AGO centers on fundraising for educational programs, including Pipe Organ Encounters for youth and adults, and public relations.

Martin Luther once stated, “Music is a fair and glorious gift of God. I am strongly persuaded that after theology, there is no art which can be placed on the level with music.” Indeed, music carries the word of God, stirs the soul, and touches the heart.
My love for church music and ultimately the career path I chose as an organist and choral conductor was inspired by my grandmother, who, herself, loved the great hymns of faith and played them daily on the piano in our home in southern Kentucky.

During a visit to try out the Westminster organ back in the winter, Barbara Jobe declared me to be an “organ geek.” Guilty! I fell in love with the organ when I was in high school. On every school or Boy Scout trip I would seek out the organs I wanted to visit in advance, and on one such trip to Salt Lake City, was given the opportunity to play at the Mormon Tabernacle.

In college, I majored in organ performance and church music at the University of Louisville, earned a doctor of musical arts degree from the Manhattan School of Music, and have had many wonderful opportunities to perform in some of the world’s largest cathedrals and churches. Most recently, I have enjoyed performing at Kimmel Center Organ Day with Opera Philadelphia and at Longwood Gardens.

It is hymn playing and choral accompanying, however, that I enjoy the most. I look forward with eager anticipation to the day when we will be able to be together singing the great hymns of the church, both old and new. Until then, I hope you will enjoy some of the videos I have posted on YouTube: www.youtube.com/FAnthonyThurman.

Thank you, Westminster, for the honor of being your Director of Music and Organist.

F. Anthony Thurman
NEW PROGRAMS FROM OUR PEACE & JUSTICE WORK GROUP

Westminster’s Peace & Justice Work Group is excited to launch an ongoing program of education events that will take place on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. While the effects of the coronavirus pandemic continue, these classes/discussions will take place online. We also plan to record these programs and make them available for viewing as YouTube videos at your convenience. Once we are able to resume meeting in person, these events will be modified to include in-person and online participation.

Each week, an announcement will appear in the Westminster Weekly Word e-newsletter describing the program that will take place on the following Thursday. We will also provide information about each program on Westminster’s Facebook page. We invite everyone in our congregation to participate and to invite family, friends and neighbors to take part as well.

Many of these programs will be standalone single event topics; we will occasionally introduce some multi-part classes. The Peace & Justice Work Group will maintain an ongoing list of desirable class subjects and speakers and encourage everyone to submit your ideas for programs of interest.

Westminster’s traditional Sunday morning 10:TEN education offerings continue to form the backbone of our church’s Christian Education offerings. This Thursday evening time slot provides an opportunity to expand the reach of our Peace & Justice Work Group.

Please contact Mike Gnade (mgnade@hotmail.com, 302-562-4464), Lynne Kielhorn (lynne@kielhorn.us, 302-593-5527) or Sue Linderman (srlinder@dca.net, 302-239-7650) with your comments and suggestions.
REFLECTIONS ON OUR PAST – HOW DID WE GET TO THIS PLACE?

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

During the two years of its existence, many Westminster members and friends have participated with the Peace & Justice Work Group. Here we share the reflections of four people who have been moved to action. Please feel free to contact these individuals if you would like to engage in further conversation. We pray that everyone will consider how best to engage in the work of creating a more just world.

I grew up in a small town in central Illinois in the ‘50’s and ‘60’s. Our lake for public swimming had a separate beach for black people, the percentage of blacks in our town was fairly low and everyone seemed to get along pretty well. I wasn’t familiar with redlining but I knew that most people had the opinion that if a black family moved to your block, it would negatively affect property values. My father was a kind, generous, hardworking man of few words. Later in life, I realized that he held some prejudices against black people, considering them ‘less than’, but my brother told me that just before Dad died, he said that he thought black people had not been treated fairly. That was a small glimmer of light in the midst of something that has weighed heavily on me.

Continued on page 8
I met Patricia May as part of a group of hiking, kayaking friends that my husband Roger knew. I was in awe that Patricia had spent a 40-year career in the criminal justice system. She worked at Vaughn Prison where she was a counselor and ran many rehabilitative programs. I so admired the positive influence she was working so hard to make. Yet so many of the needs within the prison were not being met and this erupted into a riot in 2017. She was the counselor who was taken hostage and survived. She is one of my heroes because of her work.

WPC offered classes on Racism and formed a Peace and Justice Work Group. I was so drawn to become involved because of these experiences and the great injustices that we see way too often on the news and the many more that we don’t even know about. I serve on the Criminal Justice Reform subgroup, having developed a passion for this issue because it is the right thing to do. I have the very distinct feeling that my Dad is cheering me on with my endeavors.

Sandie Reinicker

I believe the challenges of today in America can be named a “MORAL CRISIS” caused by two pandemics. The first pandemic is obviously the virus type, with all of its well-known ramifications. The second “pandemic” is human caused. It could be called the “I – SELF-CENTERED” disease. There may be a lot of names for this “I” disease, and racism is certainly on the list.

What can I do? Greg’s sermons over the years suggested calling on the Holy Spirit for strength, courage, and patience... find a deeper understanding of what “a loving God”, “follow Jesus”, and “love neighbor” really mean in my life. I have come
I never considered myself a racist person. I grew up in a family that taught respect for all people regardless of social status or skin color. Until my family moved to Dallas when I was in high school, the schools I attended in Niagara Falls, Cleveland, Chicago, Grand Rapids, and Minneapolis were integrated. In my professional career, I worked with a number of African American teachers, and in retirement most of the students I tutored at Warner Elementary School were black and brown children. I respected them, so I wasn’t racist.

It was not until I took Sue Linderman’s class, Racism in America, that I realized how naïve I’d been! I was flabbergasted by the extent of laws mandating redlining, the withholding of G.I. loans from W.W. II African American veterans, and just how systemic racism permeated the laws and the government of the United States. Somehow that history was not part of my education.

So becoming part of Westminster’s Peace & Justice Group in the spring of 2018 seemed...
I grew up in an all-white neighborhood in suburban Wilmington and went to an all-white public school. The only black person I knew was our mailman, Mr. Brown. Then, when I was 17, I headed off to Mount Holyoke College, where I encountered an enormous array of people of different...everything. It was the mid-60s, the time of anti-war protests and civil rights marches, assassinations and long-overdue civil rights legislation, a time of turmoil and growth.

During my career at DuPont, I had many opportunities to participate in what were called ‘diversity discussions’ that focused on gender and race discrimination. Having the opportunity to sit and listen to the experiences of others enabled us to build friendships and to learn so much from one another.

I feel that I’m just beginning to understand the privileges of my white skin, the daily injustices of living in a black skin, and how in some small way I can work toward building a bridge between those two realities. The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd, and Amy Cooper’s inappropriate interaction with a black man in Central Park make that a mandatory mission for me.

Marlys Kerr
My awareness and interest in racism and implicit bias and the many ways that ‘other’ people are disadvantaged continued in the years beyond. But it was a sequence of police killings of unarmed black men without consequence – Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Walter Scott, Alton Sterling, Laquan McDonald, Philando Castile, Stephon Clark, the list goes on and on – that made me realize that being silent, doing nothing, could not stand.

I am so grateful for Westminster and its Peace & Justice Work Group, for the people who come together to share experiences and take action to counter the hate and discrimination that pervade our society, working to create a more just and peaceful world.

Sue Linderman

WHAT IS THE CHURCH TO DO?

Recent events remind us of the continuing relevance of an article we published in the July/August 2018 issue of The Chimes (see “A Painful Chapter in Our History”). On the one hand, it is demoralizing to see that the same underlying issues that sparked riots in 1968 caused a similar series of events in 2020. Surely much was accomplished by the civil rights movement in the ’60’s. May the same be said of this time in our history as we continue to push forward to achieving peace and justice for all.

Westminster’s Peace & Justice Work Group was created by Session action in May 2018, to focus our church efforts on combating violence in Wilmington and promoting racial justice. In the intervening two years, we have worked on building partnerships, providing educational opportunities for our congregation and community, and promoting advocacy on relevant issues such as criminal justice reform, eliminating debtors’ prisons and support to the Poor People’s Campaign.

Continued on page 12
The scourge of unexamined racism continues to bedevil our society. We are obliged, as a Christian community, to educate ourselves about our country’s history so that we better understand the current state of our society, the work that lies ahead and how we can make a difference.

Many of you have asked: What can I do? How can I help?

Here are some thoughts on these questions.

• **75 Things White People Can Do For Racial Justice**
  Here is a comprehensive, but not exhaustive, list of actions you can each take to make a difference: medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234

• **Reading List for Adults**
  Here is a list of excellent books recommended to you by the WPC Peace & Justice Work Group: www.wpc.org/uploads/weeklyword/P&JWG_Recommended_Books_May2020.pdf
  If you know of other books that you think would be helpful for people to read, please send their titles/authors to sue@wpc.org.

• **Books for Children**
  Here is a list of children’s books about race and diversity: www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/childrens-books-about-race-and-diversity

• **Thursday Evening Education Events**
  See the article on page 6.

• **“Racism in America: Exploring Our History” Class**
  In late 2018/early 2019, 60 members of Westminster participated in a two-part class on “Racism in America: Exploring Our History” that was designed to educate ourselves about aspects of our country’s history that were seldom included in the history classes taught in our schools. This class has also been conducted at Willow Valley Retirement Community in Lancaster, PA, last fall and an expanded six-part version will be part of the Quest for Learning education series in Lancaster in September.
We plan to repeat the class at Westminster in the near future, as a three-part series that will offer time for discussion so that we can all learn together. If you are interested in learning more about this class or in signing up to participate, please contact Sue Linderman (srlinder@dca.net or 302-239-7650).

• **Westminster Weekly Word Announcements and WPC Facebook Posts**
  Check out each issue of the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter and, if you’re on Facebook, check out the Westminster Facebook page for notices of new events and updates.

• **Peace & Justice Work Group Participation**
  We have much to learn and much to share with one another. If you would like to be part of this work or would simply like to learn more about the Peace & Justice Work Group, please contact Mike Gnade (mgnade@hotmail.com, 302-562-4464), Lynne Kielhorn (lynne@kielhorn.us, 302-593-5527) or Sue Linderman (srlinder@dca.net, 302-239-7650).

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**ADULT EDUCATION IN JULY**

**Let’s Talk about It**
**Sunday, July 19, 10:10 a.m. on Zoom**
*Facilitated by Sue Linderman*

This discussion group meets regularly to talk about anti-racism and current events. To join, go to zoom.us/join, enter Meeting ID 493 720 0361 and click “Join.” You will be placed in a waiting room and admitted at 10:05.
LIVE ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

We’re adapting Illustrated Ministry’s online VBS curriculum for five Sundays of live Sunday school. All kids are welcome and the curriculum is geared toward elementary age.

Dates: June 28, July 12, July 19, July 26, and August 2
Time: 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Find a UNIQUE Zoom invitation each week in our Christian education email blast. Contact Chesna (chesnahinkley@wpc.org) with questions or to be added to the distribution list.

180 YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer 180 (rising 6th – 12th grade) will go through July on Zoom. We meet Sundays from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Meeting ID: 493 720 0361.

July 5: Game night
July 12: Kickback (two leaders are on Zoom for drop-in chat)
July 19: Game night
July 26: Netflix party (4:00 – 6:00 p.m.)

FINDING NEW WAYS TO REACH OUT

The Deacons continue to be a wonderful ministry presence in our church. Deacons have been calling congregational members during the time of isolation and will continue to do so while we find our way into reopening our church facilities. The Deacons are also exploring possibilities of fun social events for our congregation while remaining socially distanced. Stay tuned to the Westminster Weekly Word e-newsletter and to Greg’s Tuesday message for upcoming social events!
PLEASE JOIN AND ZOOM TO BETTER DAYS!

Grief Support Group Starts this Fall

In 2020, many of us are searching for serenity and trying to move forward with courage and wisdom. While so much is outside of our control, we are offering an opportunity to work through grief in a new way. If you’ve experienced a recent loss of a loved one, please consider joining us for the Better Days Grief Support Group, which has now moved online. After much consideration, and for participants’ comfort and safety, we will now be meeting on Zoom this Fall. Each participant will use the journal entitled “Taking Steps in Loss and Life” along with other resources, which will be delivered prior to our first meeting (journal cost is $7). This closed group will meet for eight sessions, starting September 27, on Sunday mornings (exact time to be determined, as we work to prioritize worship services).

In order to provide deep engagement, continuity, and establish bonds of trust, pre-registration is necessary and group size is limited. Still undecided? Please reach out to Jill Getty (jgetty@wpc.org) for more details and a registration form, which is due by September 1.

2020–2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS

It’s time to start thinking about Confirmation! Confirmation is a public commitment to the Christian faith which enrolls the confirmand as a voting member of the church. Traditionally, youth who were baptized as infants take this opportunity to claim Christian faith for themselves. Our confirmation class enrolls interested 9th and 10th graders every other year to explore Christianity, worship, theology, living as a Christian, and the expectations and benefits of church membership.

This is an opportunity to explore and learn, which means that you do not have to know before you begin whether you join or delay the decision. This is a space to learn, grow, and ask questions, and you will be part of the group.

Due to COVID-19, this year’s Confirmation class will begin on Zoom, but not on Sunday morning. Please contact Chesna (chesnahinkley@wpc.org) by August 2 if you are interested in participating. We will be together when it is safe to do so.
WESTMINSTER – URBANPROMISE PARTNERSHIP: A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Many of you are aware of our long-standing partnership with Wilmington’s UrbanPromise, founded in 1998, that is dedicated to equipping children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, personal growth and servant leadership. We have hosted after school tutoring during the school year and Camp Promise during the summer since 2010; many Westminster members have served as tutors and mentors to these children over the years. We also provide financial support to an annual college scholarship fund for teen graduates of its StreetLeader Job Training Program.

The same year we began hosting Camp Promise, the UrbanPromise Academy was founded. It is a small high school that works with teens who are struggling in traditional academic settings. The Academy has two goals: providing a Christ-centered educational environment and helping students improve academic skills to prepare them for college.
The Academy recently lost its church sponsor that provided supplies for these high school students, whose need is great. As an extension of our Blessing of the Backpacks project for elementary school students, our Urban Mission Committee approved a proposal for Westminster to step in and fill this need for the coming school year, by utilizing some of the funds available to us as proceeds from the 2019 Westminster Bazaar.

We are so grateful to the many volunteers who make our annual Bazaar such a success in building community and providing funds that we can use to help those in need in our community.

This past year, the Academy served 25 high school students in grades 8-12; it is intentionally small in order to provide individualized academic assistance, tutoring, and accountability for each student.

There is tremendous need for additional academic support. All teens entering the Academy are tested utilizing Let’s Go Learn, and students are, on average, five years behind grade level in math and two years behind in comprehension. The school’s approach is small group instruction and significant one-on-one tutoring with its team of volunteers to help students remediate their academic skills up to and beyond grade level.

If you would like additional information about the UrbanPromise Academy and ways you might help, please contact Marlys Kerr (marlyskerr@aol.com, 302-588-3759).

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we do not yet know when we will resume worshiping together at church. Find the latest updates by visiting our website at www.wpc.org or subscribe to our e-newsletter here.
INTERFAITH COLLECTION FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES – AT LAST!

Thank you for gathering items that will be sent to refugees living in camps on the Syrian-Turkish border. We have scheduled three days in August for you to deliver your donations to Westminster:

Sunday, August 2  9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Monday, August 3  5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 4  12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Please come to the Community Hall door, carry your donations inside, and be directed to a close-by room. The bags and boxes will be taken to a warehouse near King of Prussia, sorted, and put into a container to be shipped from New Jersey to a port in Eastern Turkey. There they will be offloaded and driven to the camps.

Items they are looking for:

- Men’s clothing
- Children’s clothing
- Sturdy boots and practical shoes
- Socks
- Coats
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Linens
- Feminine care products
- Toys (stuffed animals)
- School supplies
- Bars of soap
- Aspirin/pain relievers
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Vitamins
- Band aids
- Diapers
- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Crutches

Please avoid English books, liquids and paper products.

We have recently learned that the refugees are in desperate need of over-the-counter medical/hygiene supplies such as aspirin, Tylenol, band aids, antibiotic creams, and bars of soap. There is a new request that will help them rebuild: hand tools such as hammers, screwdrivers, nails, hand saws, pliers, etc. All of these items should be put in boxes.

Blankets, sleeping bags, coats, sweaters, boots and practical shoes should be put into kitchen size plastic bags.

We look forward to greeting you at Westminster!

For further information, please contact Carol Mosher (cemosher@comcast.net) or Camilla Jones (camillajones22@gmail.com).
Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Class of 2020!

High School Graduates

Ainsley Breann Albert
(daughter of Taryn and Rich Albert)
Kennett High School
Ainsley will attend the University of Pittsburgh and major in Nursing.

Ethan Paul Bradley
(son of Cindy and Erik Bradley)
Unionville High School
Ethan will attend Bowdoin College in Maine.

Reed Steven Burkhardt
(son of Robin and Steve Burkhardt)
Newark Charter
Reed will attend the University of Delaware.

Beth Lynne Davis
(daughter of Sarah and Glenn Davis)
Conrad Schools of Science
Beth will attend University of Scranton to study Nursing.

John DuBois Dietz
(son of Karen and Peter Dietz)
Charter School of Wilmington
John will attend The College of William and Mary in Virginia.

Christopher (Chris) Lawrence Eiermann
(son of Marian Eiermann and Jeffrey Eiermann)
Unionville High School
Chris will attend West Chester University.

Sebastien Bishop Gray
(son of Ashley Dalzell)
Archmere Academy
Sebastien will attend Northeastern University in Boston to study Neuroscience.

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Caroline Hubbard
(daughter of Leslie and Tom Hubbard)
Brandywine High School
Gwen will attend Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Richmond.

Sydney Elizabeth Mei Huzar
(daughter of Becky and Walt Huzar)
Kennett High School
Sydney will attend Penn State University’s Brandywine Campus in Media.

Christopher Simon Iobst
(son of Nina and Christopher Iobst; grandson of Jane and Fred Iobst)
Columbus Academy in Columbus, Ohio
Simon will attend Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

Zachary (Zach) Hurst Jones
(son of Michele Howland Jones and Matt Jones)
A.I. DuPont High School
Zach will attend the University of Delaware – Civil Engineering.

Continued on page 20
Patrick Reagan Keenan  
(son of Reagan Keenan and Michael Keenan; grandson of Carol and Ron Shelly)  
Unionville High School  
Patrick will attend I.E. University in Madrid, Spain—International Relations & Diplomacy.

Justin Corson Lengel  
(son of the late Amy Michener Lengel and Eric Lengel; grandson of Bunny and Jack Michener)  
Avon Grove High School  
Justin will attend Drexel University’s LeBow College of Business.

Luke Kneeland Máthé  
(son of Jen and Dave Máthé; grandson of Anne and Frank Waldburger)  
Charter School of Wilmington  
Luke will attend The University of Virginia—Engineering.

Jarrett (Jake) Knox Robinson  
(son of Judy Knox; grandson of Betsy Knox)  
Delaware Military Academy  
Jake will attend the Seed Program at Delaware Technical College.

Theodore Robert Russell  
(son of Les and Kristin Russell; grandson of Greg and Camilla Jones)  
Gonzaga High School in Washington DC  
Teddy will attend the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Nathaniel (Nate) Van Ruoss  
(son of Chamblin Rooney and Seth Ruoss; grandson of Lin and Eric Ruoss)  
The Tatnall School  
Nate will attend Middlebury College in Vermont.

Benjamin (Ben) Charles Schiltz  
(son of Christine and Todd Schiltz)  
Tower Hill School  
Ben will attend Haverford College.

McKenzie Grace Smithson  
(daughter of Karen and Ron Smithson)  
Brandywine High School  
McKenzie will attend West Chester University.

Olivia Kate Smithson  
(daughter of Karen and Ron Smithson)  
Cab Calloway School of the Arts  
Olivia will attend Virginia Commonwealth University.

Peter Charles Timon  
(son of Gillian Timon and Philip Timon)  
Tower Hill School  
Peter will attend the University of Michigan.

Hugh Bergquist Van Lenten Underhill  
(son of Claudia Van Lenten and Erik Underhill; grandson of Lois and Lowell Underhill; nephew of Tom Underhill)  
The Charter School of Wilmington  
Hugh will attend Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Christian Alexander Taets van Amerongen  
(son of Kathryn and Jan van Amerongen)  
Charter School of Wilmington  
Christian will attend the University of Delaware.

Thomas (Tom) Eliot Zehner  
(son of Jill and Zack Zehner)  
Tower Hill School  
Tom will attend Davidson College in North Carolina.
College/University/ Post High School Program Graduates

Haley Morgan Eiermann  
(daughter of Marian Eiermann and Jeffrey Eiermann)  
Towson University  
Bachelor of Science/ Health Sciences  
Haley is pursuing her Doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy at Towson University.

Jillian (Jill) Elizabeth Eiermann  
(daughter of Marian Eiermann and Jeffrey Eiermann)  
West Chester University  
Bachelor of Science/ Health Sciences  
Jill is pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing Science at Villanova University.

Victoria Lynne Falasco  
(daughter of Colleen and Marty Falasco)  
Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA  
Bachelor of Science in Accelerated Health Sciences, with a minor in Medical Spanish.

Cardon (Carrie) Anne Furry  
(daughter of Caroline and Dan Furry; granddaughter of Ellie and Don Furry)  
Villanova University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering  
Carrie was commissioned in the U.S. Army on May 13.

Mariah A. Graham  
(daughter of Katharine Griffin-Graham and Gary Graham)  
University of Delaware Master in Speech Pathology  
Mariah plans to serve acute care and traumatic brain injury patients.

Paige Kaylyn Haden  
(daughter of Catherine and Jeff Haden; granddaughter of Mary Kay and Dick Haden)  
Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio; Bachelor of Arts  
Paige will teach in a Montessori School.

Alexandra (Alex) Lynn Knepper  
(daughter of Barb Stratton and Marty Knepper)  
Temple University Master in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Athletic Training.

Cole Smithson  
(son of Karen and Ron Smithson)  
University of South Carolina Bachelor in Multimedia Journalism

Andrew (Andy) William Stoffer  
(son of Judy and Paul Stoffer)  
Drexel University Bachelor of Science in Health Science  
Andrew plans to enter Physician’s Assistant program.

Samuel (Sam) Robert Wayne  
(son of Kelly and Bob Wayne; grandson of Hannah Wayne)  
Hofstra University BA in Psychology  
Sam will attend West Chester University for PhD in Psychology.
EARTH CARE: IT PAYS TO HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY HOME

PART 1: ONLINE CALCULATORS

We are called as Christians to care for God’s creation, and there are many practical ways to do so. What follows are ways to help improve the sustainability of the planet.

Conventional wisdom suggests that making your home more environmentally sustainable will cost you money, but in reality there are many things you can do for your home that will benefit both the environment and your bank account. The long list of topics is split into two articles: one here and one to appear in the September Chimes. This article focuses on online calculators that can help you determine the financial costs associated with ways to help the environment through home renovations:

1. Determine if solar energy is a viable option for your home. Project Sunroof is a calculator that tells you facts about a possible solar installation on the roof of your home, including the potential greenhouse gas savings, the recommended installation size, financing options (including lease and loan options), and the investment payback period if purchasing the equipment.

Figure: Project Sunroof’s Calculations Applied to Daughtry House
2. **Find out how long it would take to get paid back for eco-friendly home improvements.** The inset provides a list of different calculators that can help you estimate the costs associated with various home improvements. Trying out these calculators allows you to make an educated decision on which improvements fit into your budget.

3. **Find a green electric power provider.** The Delaware Public Service Commission provides links to companies that offer pricing plans for supplying renewable electricity (e.g., CleanChoice Energy), even though the power is delivered by Delmarva Power. For PA and NJ, online sites such as PowerSetter and PowerSwitch (separate websites for PA and NJ) provide information for choosing your utility provider, including those providers associated with 100% green energy. In many cases, the green energy providers have lower rates than the standard utilities.

You can see that these calculators are valuable tools to allow homeowners make wise decisions about improving their home while helping the environment. Some factors to consider are the amount of available money to spend upfront for these renovations, how long you plan to live in your current home, and the potential long-term financial and environmental benefits.

### Calculators for Eco-Friendly Home Improvements

- **Home Energy Calculator:** Appalachian Energy has a calculator that provides a broad overview of the estimated annual savings from making specific improvements to your home.

- **Cool Roof Calculator:** Developed by ORNL, it calculates the amount of energy savings achievable from installing a cool roof. They also provide the equivalent amount of added insulation needed to achieve the same effect so you can compare the costs of both methods.

- **Window Replacement Calculator:** ProVia provides an energy-efficient window replacement calculator based on EnergySTAR data. They provide estimated savings for replacing single-pane and double-pane windows based on location.

- **EnergySTAR Refrigerator Calculator:** The calculator provides info on financial savings and carbon pollution reduction, both from using the new fridge and properly recycling the old one. They also provide a “rebate finder” and “product finder” based on location.

- **Appliance Energy Calculator:** The Department of Energy provides a simple calculator that tells you the cost of running an appliance based on its type, power rating, time of use, and the electric utility cost.

- **Light Dimmer Calculator:** Lutron provides a calculator for yearly and lifetime energy and financial savings from installing a dimmer switch for LED or CFL lights.

- **Insulation Calculator:** The Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association provides a calculator to show one-year and ten-year financial savings, as well as the annual carbon emissions reduction, from adding extra insulation for your home.

### Further reading:

1. Google, Reaching our solar potential, one rooftop at a time ([https://sustainability.google/projects/project-sunroof/](https://sustainability.google/projects/project-sunroof/))

PROPERTY NEWS: WORK CONTINUES DESPITE COVID-19 (AND A HUGE THANKS!)

What a difference a year makes! Last summer we attended regular services, mounted a successful session of Vacation Bible School, prepared for Paul Fleckenstein’s final fall as Westminster’s Director of Music/Organist, and welcomed Chesna Hinkley as our new Director of Christian Education. This summer, we remain socially distant and await the day when we can return to services at Westminster. For spiritual comfort and guidance, we rely on online services and Zoom classes and conversations. The church parking lot has become a way station in our efforts to provide provisions to Emmanuel Dining Room, Friendship House, and Hanover Food Closet. Within this “new normal,” the Property Committee continues to care for the sacred spaces that we hold so dear.

Pennsylvania Avenue facade BEFORE repointing; notice the difference in color from the Tower

Pennsylvania Avenue facade AFTER repointing
In June, an ongoing project to repoint the mortar joints of Westminster’s stone walls took a major step forward. The firm of Culbertson Restoration of West Chester repointed the façade along Pennsylvania Avenue from the Pavilion to the Bell Tower as well as the area above the Cloister along Rodney Street.

A member of our committee, Gary Bryde, has continued to perform his artistic magic by marbleizing the fireplace surround in the Ruth Christie Room and cleaning and polishing the caps of the pews throughout the sanctuary. Gary deserves our heart-felt thanks for all he has done to enhance the beauty of the church.

Finally, the Property Committee owes the entire congregation our deepest gratitude for your support of the Capital Campaign, initiated three years ago in June 2017. Not only did you pledge to establish a $2 million property endowment, but you paid off those pledges sooner than expected and, as a result, the endowment is now in place. Combining it with existing funds set aside for property maintenance and improvement will allow the Property Committee to address future building needs without tapping into the church’s general operating budget. Equally important, additional monies received through the campaign are destined for the mission program of the church. The campaign is truly a win-win. We wish that we could thank you in person with a handshake or a hug, but that will have to wait until the arrival of a vaccine. For now, please know how much we appreciate all that you have done for Westminster and the larger Christian community.

FLYING SOLO UPDATE

Flying Solo is a group of single adults who meet to support each other in friendship, through social activities and fellowship. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, Flying Solo is suspending its activities for the foreseeable future. Once we know that we can safely gather as a group, we will let you know by email of our upcoming activities. If you would like to be added to the Flying Solo email list, contact Bill Kaye at billkaye3@verizon.net. In the meantime, please be safe and well.
WESTMINSTER’S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS GOES GLOBAL

COVID-19 has touched the lives of everyone, everywhere. This virus makes no distinction for race, creed, nationality, or government borders. The people served by our world mission partners in Palestine, Syria, Guatemala and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are extremely vulnerable due to high-density populations, lack of clean water and sanitation, little or no access to health care and education, and infrastructures that are broken or non-existent. These countries implemented early lockdowns and strict curfews in an attempt to get ahead of the virus. Transportation has been halted. Jobs are being lost. Stores are running out of food. Prices are rising. And there are no safety nets such as government subsidies, food banks, or family members who can help. As this virus continues to spread, the situation in these countries is becoming more desperate every day.

Westminster’s response to the COVID-19 crisis in Palestine, Syria, Guatemala, and the DRC has been swift and focused. First, our Church in the World Committee immediately voted to send nearly $20,000 from its budget to our mission partners in these four countries to address their most pressing needs. Second, we launched a special ECHO Giving campaign to the congregation, offering an opportunity for members to make a direct, personal impact. It is no surprise to report that WPC members – once again – rose to the occasion and gave generously to this effort. As of June 11, we received 85 gifts from Westminster members totaling $13,025. THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this campaign. We are truly grateful. If you have not had a chance to make a gift yet, there is still time! Please give today, and continue reading to learn more about our efforts around the world...
Palestine

The needs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank territories are enormous. Palestinians are blockaded, and constant conflict and bombings have destroyed much of the health care system. Through this ECHO Giving campaign, Westminster members contributed toward purchasing a portable X-ray machine for the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund that can be used to diagnose and better detect the presence of COVID-19 and monitor the disease’s progress. Future efforts will be directed to COVID-19 test kits and protective gear.

Syria

The ongoing nine-year war in Syria has created the world’s largest human displacement crisis. Since 2011, over half of the country’s total population has been forced to flee their homes, some multiple times. More than 11 million people continue to be in need of humanitarian assistance for food, shelter, clothing and water. In addition, inflation has been astronomical (17X), making the purchase of even the most basic needs out of reach and paralyzing economic activity, rendering Syrians to be in the most desperate of conditions.

For our sisters and brothers in Syria, WPC members contributed hygiene boxes which contained soaps, sanitizers, detergent, wipes, tissues, and Clorox. All of these items are considered luxury goods in Syria. These boxes were distributed to the most needy (widows, families with many children, and the disabled), without regard to religious affiliation. The smiles on the recipients’ faces are priceless!

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Guatemala

In response to this crisis, the Guatemala Partnership is teaming up with CEDEPCA and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development to provide Emergency Food Kits to indigenous families in rural Guatemala. These families already struggle with food insecurity and malnutrition, and this crisis has made them even more vulnerable to hunger. Each kit provides basic food staples that will help feed a family of five for one month. As an added bonus, an anonymous Westminster donor has offered to match the first 100 food kits with three egg-laying chickens that will supply fresh eggs for more than a year! The response from Westminster and other churches in New Castle Presbytery has been overwhelming, and we fully expect to reach our goal of providing ALL 300 women in the Association with a food kit. Be sure to watch this special Thank You Video sent directly from the women of the Association!

Democratic Republic of Congo

We have provided funding to four of our mission partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – IMCK Hospital, SEPRES Vocational School, Kananga Presbytery and Butoke Clinic – to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Their efforts have included installing hand washing stations, making and distributing masks and gowns, printing and distributing COVID-19 education material, and helping secure much needed PPE and treatment equipment. Churches in the DRC are closed with no way to take local collections. Our ECHO Giving campaign has helped our sister parish, Kamulumba Ditalala, provide food for those of their congregation and community who depend solely on the church for their existence. Read more about the situation in the DRC on pages 29-32.
A Renewable Source of Hope

Clearly, these needs of our partners in Palestine, Syria, Guatemala and the Democratic Republic of Congo will continue for a long time, and our work to support them during this crisis and beyond will not falter. We urge you to continue to pray for our sisters and brothers across the globe who are struggling to merely survive. This act in itself brings hope. As one of our Palestinian partners said, “Through prayer, each of us is a renewable source of hope for the oppressed. While conditions may be devastating, their faith keeps hope alive.”

WESTMINSTER CHURCH LENDING SUPPORT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO’S COVID-19 FIGHT

In a developing country, it’s common for a family to use more than half of its meager income (often $2.00/day) to pay for food. When an epidemic such as Ebola, SARS, or MERS hits communities already struggling to get the food they need, malnutrition increases. A lockdown makes survival even more difficult. With borders closed early in the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chains for imported foods were disrupted and the price of basic goods has skyrocketed. All will suffer, not just those who get sick.

The impact of COVID-19 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a big question. Its population is very young compared to western countries with 62% of the population being under 25 years of age! Only a mere 2.7% of the population is over 65 years of age. Medically, there is a significant number of the adults with diabetes and hypertension as well as thousands of vulnerable children under five who suffer from acute and chronic malnutrition.

Although COVID-19 arrived in Africa after its spread around the rest of the world, Westminster’s mission programs have taken proactive steps so that people are better able to cope with conditions caused by the pandemic.

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**Preparedness**

Westminster funds for medical preparedness were delivered to its mission contacts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as soon as pandemic status was reached. It was critical to tell the population how to protect itself from the virus and to avoid infecting others. Medical workers normally wear sewn masks in hospitals in the DRC, but with additional funding, hundreds of additional masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) were sewn by students attending vocational school. Just as in the U.S., social media in the DRC is adrift with dangerously inaccurate virus information. As a result, WPC has provided funds to our mission partner, IMPROKA, to print professional grade COVID-19 educational flyers which are distributed through the Congo Presbyterian Church (CPC) and respected medical sources. Additionally, the (CPC) is spreading information on virus prevention through weekly radio broadcasts.

**The Viral Regimen**

We hear daily, “Wash your hands and sing happy birthday twice.” What if you had neither soap nor clean water? In the DRC, portable washing stations featuring a bucket with a faucet and a basin on a stand have been set up in public areas. Since soap is scarce and expensive, the Congolese are learning to wash their hands with ash rather than soap!
We also hear daily, “Always stand six feet apart to maintain social distancing.” What if you live in a single room home with three generations? Since all vocational schools have closed, your home may now be even more crowded with everyone back.

**Food Insecurity**

The Democratic Republic of Congo is the world’s second most food insecure country. With food supply chains disrupted, stay-at-home directive limiting employment, and rising food prices, hunger and malnutrition are the sad consequences.

An additional food fact is that hospitals in the DRC do not have kitchens and serve no food! If your loved one falls sick, you will hopefully bring them their once-daily meal to the hospital.

**Sister Congregation**

Pastor Gaston of our sister congregation, Kamulumba Ditalala in Kananga, no longer has any income due to the temporary closure of the church. Only Sunday offering collections had supported the pastor’s family and 20 widows of the congregation. The largest segment of the congregation is jobless youth (60%), and those congregants who have jobs are now unable to work.

Gatherings of over 20 people are still prohibited. Westminster has provided funding to that church to feed both the pastor’s family and the widows over this difficult pandemic period.

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Pastor Gaston’s profound expression of thanks for Westminster’s support:

Dear brothers and sisters at Westminster,

As a local adage says “we recognize our best friends in case of misfortune or distress” in the name of our community of Ditalala Kamulumba Parish and in my personal name I convey our thanks for this help which really comes at the right time and, which shows your great soul and your great love for your brothers and sisters here through our Lord Jesus Christ who never ceases to manifest in us!

We inform you that we too will not forget our brothers and sisters of Nkongolomonji parish who are in the same pain as us! May God Most High fill you with all his blessings, may He protect you against all misfortune and especially against this pandemic, in the name of Jesus Christ! Amen!

Pastor Gaston

The global impact of COVID-19 is unprecedented. Through our Echo Giving campaign, be part of the light by providing food relief for impacted families from our Congolese sister congregation Kamulumba Ditalala.

Thank you for being part of God’s light shining in the darkness.

RECENT DEATHS

Those Who Have Joined the Church Triumphant

We remember the families of those who recently died. We pray that they will be comforted in their loss and be assured that their loved ones have joined God’s heavenly kingdom.

Eleanor Jenkins Charles
October 31, 1923 – April 22, 2020

Marilyn June Stern Richardson (former member)
June 16, 1925 – April 20, 2020

Leucia Butler Venable
July 14, 1924 – May 17, 2020

Caroline Massey Sparks
August 23, 1920 – May 24, 2020

Sandra J. White
May 23, 1938 – June 12, 2020
HOW TO THRIVE IN A ZOOM MEETING

Here are some tips and tricks for our new favorite place to meet.

1. Joining Up

Joining a Zoom meeting is easy! There are a few ways to do it. An emailed Zoom invitation has a lot of information, but you only need to worry about two things: the link and/or the Meeting ID. You can click the link to go directly to the meeting. To use the Meeting ID instead, go to zoom.us and click “Join a Meeting.”

Next, enter the Meeting ID only (not the password, the name of the account, or the meeting – just the number!).

If your meeting has a password (included in your email invitation), you will be prompted to enter it now. Otherwise, you might be placed in a waiting room so the host can vet participants, or be put directly into the meeting. When you reach the screen below, click “Open Zoom.”

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2. You’re In!

Aaaaaannnd...you can’t see anyone. Now what?! See that arrow in the upper right corner? If you’re in full screen mode, that box will say “Gallery View” or “Speaker View.” Toggle between the two to see which you like better. You can change it any time. If you’re on a phone or tablet, just swipe between screens for different views.

The next problem you’ll probably run into is your own video. If you can’t see your face (and you know you have a webcam), follow the second arrow from the left. Click the “Stop/Start Video” button. You can do this anytime. If your webcam doesn’t work, don’t panic! We can still hear you.

See the little red microphone next to my name? That means I’m muted. The first arrow from the left is the “Mute/Unmute” button. You can mute and unmute anytime, but you should be muted if you’re not talking to minimize feedback.

3. Level 2 Zoom

Click “Chat” to open a pop-out window. You can send a chat to everyone or click this pull-down menu to send a private message to anyone in the group.

You can also share your screen. The host will have to allow you to do this. When it’s enabled, click the green “Share Screen” button. You’ll have the option to share any window open on your computer or to open a file.
4. Have a Little Fun!

It’s hard to react, agree, laugh, etc. naturally in an online meeting because of delays and audio feedback. Instead, you can stay muted and put a reaction on your box.

You can also add a background to your picture. Click the arrow next to “Stop/Start Video” and then click “Choose Virtual Background.” You can select any image saved on your computer.

In the upper right corner of your image is a tiny blue “...” button. Click it for more options, including “Rename.”

5. Lastly, a Bit of Etiquette...

Keep your microphone muted when you’re not talking. This minimizes background noise, which can be much louder on the other end of the call than it seems to you!

Group conversations are harder on Zoom. It’s just the way it is. Expect interruptions, delays, and that sometimes people will not hear you. Give a little extra time and patience. Wait a second to respond in case there’s a delay – someone else might not have heard the end of the last person’s sentence.

Finally, it’s okay if you want to keep your video off. Try not to be annoyed when others do it! Looking at yourself on screen feels much more exposed than sitting in an in-person meeting, and it can contribute to “Zoom fatigue.” This means you feel more tired by a week of Zoom meetings than you would by a week of office meetings. Play the long game! Do yourself a favor and turn your camera off in webinars or big meetings.

Hopefully this upgrades your Zoom experience!
Pastors
The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
The Rev. Jill Getty

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Next Chimes Deadline:
Monday, August 10, at 11:00 a.m.
For the September 2020 Issue
Submissions can be made at
www.wpc.org/communications

We hope to have our 4th annual 13th Street Food Truck Festival on
Sunday, September 13, at 11:00 a.m.
This is a rain or shine event.
Save the date!