WESTMINSTER TRAVELERS TO GUATEMALA SHARE UPDATES AND INSIGHTS

Sunday, March 29
10:10 a.m.

Join the Westminster travelers to Guatemala (Karen Asenavage, Denison Hatch, Jamie Hickey, Arun Loptes, Rachel Psaros, and Carrie Saathoff) on Sunday, March 29, at 10:10 a.m. in Classroom 5 to hear about their weeklong trip in the Land of the Eternal Spring. The annual, presbytery-wide trip strengthened the relationships with our in-country partners — the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development, CEDEPCA, and AJPU. Together, the three organizations collaborate to support sustainable development initiatives for indigenous women and communities in the Western Highlands of Guatemala with the generous support of our church and many others throughout the Presbytery.

Some trip highlights included:

- Visiting CEDEPCA staff at their headquarters
- Learning about immigration in Central American at a Guatemalan migrant center
- Seeing Association projects throughout the countryside such as microloans, family gardens, and latrines
- Exploring AJPU’s workshop where the fuel-efficient stoves are manufactured

As one traveler put it, “Experience bursts us open at our core and touches us in a way that cognition simply can’t.” We hope you can experience our travels and learn about the progress and possibilities of this partnership.

For more information about the Guatemala Partnership, visit www.ncpguatemala.com.
So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame. Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are but for claiming what God can do within the dust,

with the dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made and the stars that blaze in our bones and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.

— From “Blessing the Dust” by Jan Richardson¹

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Many of us heard this solemn reminder as we received ashen crosses upon our foreheads during our Ash Wednesday service. With these words the church marks the beginning of Lent, during which disciples the world over prepare to celebrate Christ’s resurrection with 40 days of self-reflection and prayer. The Lenten season is a time of “realignment” when we examine our lives to discern how we are — and are not — following Christ’s command to love God and neighbor.

I love Lent for the opportunity it holds to nurture my relationship with the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us. But I understand why many of us are not so fond of this liturgical season. Too often, history and tradition have portrayed this penitential season as a time to beat ourselves up for not being [insert adjective here] enough: obedient enough, pure enough, sacrificial enough, worthy enough, faithful enough, good enough. It doesn’t take much for us to drop the descriptors and think of ourselves as all-together lacking — as not enough. Yes, I understand why many Christians would rather skip the Lenten journey and ride the HOV lane directly to Easter.

If you are participating in Chesna’s “Eat and Exegete” Bible Study, you might recall that the phrase, “you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” comes from the account of the Fall in Genesis 3. This, of course, is the story the church has pointed to over the centuries to explain “original sin” — the doctrine that humankind is held captive to sin and cannot, by our own power, free ourselves from its snares.

Here’s the thing: In emphasizing “original sin,” the church has too-often overlooked the rest of this story of dust: How the Holy One molded the first human being from the dust of the earth, then leaned close to enliven this creature with God’s own breath. How the Divine Artist — upon realizing

¹ 1502 W. 13th Street • Wilmington, DE 19806 • (302) 654-5214 • www.wpc.org
that it was “not good that the human should be alone” – reached again into Eden’s soil to form animals of the field and birds of the air. How – unsatisfied with this solution – the Lord performed surgery; God took a rib (or a side, depending on how you read the Hebrew) from this dust-creature to make a second who would share flesh and bone with the first. And, then – if we really take in the whole story – how the Eternal One fully embraced dust by becoming bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. God makes beautiful things out of dust. God inhabits dust. God loves dust.

Yes, sin is part of our story. And it is a part of our story that we must name if we are to take seriously the call to realign our lives with Christ’s life. But it is not the whole story. As the apostle Paul puts it, we “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). But we have also been marked as beloved children of God and washed – no, drenched – in grace. This is why our Prayers of Confession in worship are always – always – followed by an Assurance of God’s Forgiveness.

As the church enters the season of Lent, I hope you will take Jan Richardson’s words to heart: “So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame ...” This season offers us the opportunity to examine and grow in our faith – not as those who are “not enough,” but as beloved children who have been set apart by grace. The journey will look differently for each of us. Some, like our 180 youth, may choose to give up destructive habits that deny our intimate connection with the earth and other creatures formed of dust. Some of us may find a new or renewed practice of daily devotion to be a life-giving way to spend time with God. Some of us may try something that seems less “spiritual” but is certainly no less sacred: attending to self-care so that we may love ourselves and, ultimately, others better. Whatever the journey looks like for you, may the assurance of God’s grace allow us to claim (or reclaim) this season as a sacred time to reach out for the One who reached into Eden’s dust to form us for relationship.

As you embark on this Lenten journey, let your forehead and heart be marked

... for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made

With blessings for a meaningful Lent,

2. Genesis 2:4b-25
STAFF ANNIVERSARY

Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security
(5 years)

Thank you, Paul, for your years of faithful service and dedication to Westminster. Congratulations on your anniversary at Westminster! We are so blessed to have you!

COOKIES = YOUTH OUTREACH

_Palm Sunday Cookie Sale benefits Westminster youth mission_

Just as you finish your last box of Girl Scout cookies, no need to worry... the Deacon Cookie Sale is back! Each box sold supports our dedicated youth in mission work.

The Deacons are hosting the 4th Annual Cookie Sale on Palm Sunday, April 5, before and after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. For only $5.00, you’ll reap huge rewards! Enjoy a box of delicious cookies, lovingly handmade by our Deacons and 180 Youth. Cookie varieties include both nut and gluten free so there is something for everyone.

Indulge your sweet tooth for our youth! We are preparing 150 boxes of cookies and hope you’ll help us reach our goal to sell every one.
FISH BANKS FOR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

A Presbyterian Church (USA) special offering is collected during Holy Week for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of All People. Westminster will collect for One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday (April 5). On February 23, kids will receive “fish banks” during the Time with Our Children to help them participate in giving throughout Lent! Be sure to bring them in April 5 to contribute to the offering.

2019 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Thank you for your generous spirit!

How blessed we are as a community of faith by the generosity of so many people – members, friends, family, visitors. Every December, our Joint Mission Committee recommends and Session approves the meaningful ways in which our Christmas offering will be shared.

This past Christmas, your gifts totaled $34,716! These dollars accompany the hands and feet of our volunteers as we provide:

- $8,679.00 (25%) to Church in the World projects
- $6,943.20 (20%) to Friendship House
- $6,943.20 (20%) to Family Promise of New Castle County
- $5,207.40 (15%) to Triad Addiction Recovery Services
- $5,207.40 (15%) to Westminster Peace & Justice Work Group
- $1,735.80 ( 5%) to Churches for Middle East Peace

Our partner ministries are so grateful for your expression of support and commitment to their work. Your generosity indeed changes lives – thank you!
**Afghan Refugee Experience**
Classroom 6
Come hear from a wonderful refugee family supported by Westminster.

**Lenten Book Study**
Facilitator: Chesna Hinkley
Classroom 5

**The Koran**
Presenters: Bob Cox and Kara Francis
Classroom 3
Join Bob Cox and Kara Francis in an exploration of the literary, theological, and historical influences behind the Qur’an. We’ll use video lectures, presentations, and classroom discussions to facilitate an open and honest exploration of what is, and is not, in this text over 1.3 billion people consider sacred. It will surprise you.

**Membership Exploration**
Presenter: Greg Jones
Ruth Christie Room
The second in a two-part series for those interested in joining Westminster.

**Friendship House: A Way Home**
Presenter: Kim Eppehimer
Classroom 6
Westminster has a close relationship with Friendship House. This presentation will discuss what it means to be homeless and how Friendship House defines “homelessness” — which may not be how most would. We will also learn about the importance of being a loving and supportive community to those facing homelessness and Friendship House’s work providing a bridge between communities and those most in need.
Lenten Book Study
Classroom 5

The Koran
Classroom 3

MARCH 15

Transhumanism and Beyond: The Future of Human Evolution
Presenter: Jim Lee
Classroom 6

Lenten Book Study
Classroom 5

The Koran
Classroom 3

MARCH 22

Delaware Corrections from the Inside Out: A Story of Faith and Hope
Presenter: Patricia May
Classroom 6

Three years ago, the Vaughn Correctional Center in Smyrna was engulfed in a prisoner riot. Hockessin resident Patricia May, a counselor there, was taken hostage and held for 18 hours. Patricia will share her experiences, the many ways that God was present, her perspective on conditions at the prison and her thoughts on what works and what doesn’t in the corrections system. Patricia is now deeply involved in Second Chances Farm, a commercial enterprise and ministry of hope for people released from prison.

Lenten Book Study
Classroom 5

The Koran
Classroom 3

MARCH 29

The Opioid Crisis and Public Health
Presenter: Dave Humes
Classroom 6

Lenten Book Study
Classroom 5

The Koran
Classroom 3

Guatemala Travelers Share Updates and Insights
Classroom 5

See cover page for more details.
SPECIAL EVENTS

MARCH 8

Bowling Night
Location TBD
Bowl some games and have pizza.

MARCH 22

Stone Soup Night
A regular night of 180 with a twist: you bring dinner! Grab whatever you want to throw into the (metaphorical) soup. Roast a chicken or bring M&M’S® — there are no rules!

MARCH 29

Fifth Grader Night
Community Hall
Fifth graders are invited to experience a regular night of 180! We hope you’ll come back in the fall.

THURSDAY EVENING ADULT EDUCATION

An event sponsored by the Community for Integrative Learning (CIL)

Jung and Beyond: Archetypal Elements in Religious Experience

With Alan Fox, University of Delaware Religion Professor

Thursday, April 2
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Rodney Chapel

No fee. Donations to help support the speaker fee are very welcome.

For more information and to register, visit www.cil-de.org.
Palm/Passion Sunday – April 5
Worship – 9:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
and 11:15 a.m. (Rodney Chapel)

Rejoice with a procession of palms as we begin the journey of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday – April 9
Worship – 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Westminster storytellers and the Westminster Choir will lead this service. Nursery care provided from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. for infants and toddlers.

Good Friday – April 10
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Reflect on the crucifixion through silent prayer and meditation in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday – April 12
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.  Easter Breakfast in Community Hall prepared by the Deacons

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.  Christ is risen! Join us for festive worship services in the Sanctuary celebrating Christ’s triumphant resurrection, with an inspirational sermon by Dr. Jones, and joyous music led by the Westminster Choir, trumpets, timpani, and organ.

10:15 a.m.  Easter Egg Hunt (parents and children through 2nd grade meet in Grace Hall)
BEYOND
“TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN”

Every Sunday, our congregation receives a “dose of joy” when our children gather up front to hear and respond to a carefully-crafted, child-friendly message from one of our pastors or another leader. The children’s energy and reactions are delightfully memorable!

Where do all those children go after Time with Our Children? We are blessed with wonderful people who dedicate time and energy to lead Christian education sessions and care for our children and youth on Sundays throughout the year.

Now it is time to say thank you to these faithful teams!

Directors
Christian Education: Chesna Hinkley
Music for Children and Youth: Alexis Droke
Preschool Ministries: Teisha Fooks

Nursery
Beatrice Taylor (Ms. Bea), Kristin Wolanski
Assistants: Kate Dietz, Ava Pfaff, Evie Saathoff

Preschool Godly Care
Adam and Jenn Blackford, Chelsea Collins, Jacob Fooks, Kara Francis, Becky Hamilton, Trina Hogan, Becky Huzar, Kali Kniel, Elaine Lunardi, Kris Marvel, Jen and Greg Máthé, Dan McAllister, Blair McConnel, Mary Lou McDowell, Evie Saathoff, Teresa Wemhoff, Sandy and Steve Wermus
Godly Play
Diane Chandler, John Dietz, Patti Ridout, Judy Stoddard, Judy Stoffer, Barbara Stratton

Sing-to-Praise and Joyful Noise Choirs
Alexis Droke
Assistants: Mason Lucas, Allison Martin

Creation Station
Meg Burich, Hannah Huzar, Walt Huzar, Susan Williamson

180 Youth Ministry
Chesna Hinkley, Josh Cox, Chris Hickey, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters, Tommy Neilson

Vacation Bible School
Robin Rosser, Director, and many teachers and helpers
GOD’S VISION STARTS WITH YOU

We thank the many faithful stewards listed on the following pages who have made a pledge to support Westminster in 2020.

Rebecca S. Abel
Carol Aiken
Shawn M. Alexander
Susan M. Alexander
Nora Andresen
Richard E. & Barbara Armen
David E. & Janice Atadan
Roger W. Atkins
Charles W. & Sharon K. Babcock
Kenneth S. & Lisa A. Bachman
Alfred E. & Elizabeth Bacon
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Kenneth & Fay D. Barnaby
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William B. Farnham
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Mary K. Field
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David C. & Mary W. Young
Linda Youngerman
Jill & Zachary Zehner
Fredrick C. & Helen M. Zumsteg

*Deceased
## WHO ARE OUR CHURCH OFFICERS?

**Westminster Presbyterian Church Officers 2020 – 2022**

### ELDERS

**Class of 2020**  
- Karen Beer  
- Chad Chandler  
- Rich Diver  
- Peter Gildner  
- Carol Hogue  
- Carrie Saathoff  
- Kent Smith  
- Janet Steinwedel  

**Class of 2021**  
- Sally Buttner  
- Michael Enderle  
- Jan Patrick  
- Todd Piercy  
- Roger Reinicker  
- Barbara Stratton  
- Mary Vane  
- Susan Williamson  

**Class of 2022**  
- Robert Cox  
- Jessica Fischer  
- Carla Krupanski  
- Faith Kuehn  
- David Máthé  
- Kelly McCulloch  
- David Michener  
- Chip Pfeegor  

Moderator: Greg Jones  
Clerk of Session: Jan Patrick

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**Class of 2020**  
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- Denison Hatch  
- Tom Preston  
- Barbara Steen  

**Class of 2021**  
- Charles Babcock  
- Fred Iobst  
- Brock Jobe  
- Bob Ridout  

**Class of 2022**  
- Mark Gerstenschlager  
- Sue Linderman  
- Bruce Weber  
- Dan Weintraub  

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Vice President: Charles Babcock  
Secretary: Dan Weintraub

### BOARD OF DEACONS

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- Liz Bacon  
- Kyle Carrick  
- Barry Cobb  
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- Cathy Glober  
- Laura Holmes  
- Lily Holmes (Youth)  
- Kris Marvel  
- Dan McAllister  
- Debbie McCullough  
- Jennifer Trickey  
- Sandra White  

**Class of 2021**  
- Jennifer Blackford  
- Beatty Chadwick  
- Tara Lee  
- Marsha Mah  
- Blair McConnel  
- Robert Moore  
- Emily Pfaff  
- Sandie Reinicker  
- Martha Spaethling  
- Lisa Stoddard  
- Josh Thomas  
- Pam White  

**Class of 2022**  
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- Russ Butler  
- Ron Carrick  
- Diane Chandler  
- Eadie Churchill  
- Paul Kelly  
- Arun Loptes  
- Roland Pamm  
- Patti Ridout  
- Robin Rosser  
- Sandra Wermus  
- Debbie Wise  

Moderator: Lisa Stoddard  
Vice Moderator: Jenn Blackford
PEACE DRUM BAND RETURNS

After multiple concerts in Israel, performances in Vienna, London, Mannheim and Dortmund Germany, London, and Zurich, this international sensation will return to Delaware for a series of concerts.

This amazing peacemaking band created with Jewish, Christian and Muslim youth from the Galilee region of Israel, will be here from April 14-23.

Would you be able to host members of this band and teachers and parents who will travel with them? We are looking for welcoming homes that would provide bed and breakfast and transportation to and from Westminster. We also would appreciate help with the welcoming dinner and farewell breakfast.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Camilla Jones (camillajones22@gmail.com, 302-354-8358). This just might be the wonderful experience you have been hoping could happen.

FOOD DONATIONS

The first Sunday of each month is designated as Cereal Sunday to collect cereal in any form or flavor to aid the Hanover Food Pantry. The donations will now be collected at Westminster’s 13th Street entrance. You may pause to give the collector your donations or bring it from the parking lot to the new collection point. Of course, non-perishable foods are always welcome anytime in the collection bins inside the church. Thank you for any donations.
YWCA Delaware presents
DIALOGUE TO ACTION:
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACISM

March 1 – April 11
New Castle County
Sign up at: www.ywcade.org/dialogue2action
Registration is required!

Sundays: Bear Library 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Mondays: Wilmington Library 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Mondays: Newark Library 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Thursdays: Del Tech Wilmington 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Saturdays: Woodlawn Library 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Dialogue to Action: Conversations about Racism is a dynamic, six-week program that moves us from talk to meaningful action! You’ve had conversations about racism before, but this program dives into the real issues and root causes, and evolves into action that directly addresses systemic and institutional racism. Now, more than ever, we need to listen to each other, break down the walls between us, and channel our emotions into meaningful action for sustainable change!

The groups will end with a large Action Forum on April 25, 2020.

Community Partners
Delaware Libraries, Metropolitan Urban League, The Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, Mother African Union Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Network Delaware, United Way, The Episcopal Church of St. Andrew & Matthew, First Unitarian Church, UUFN, Everyday Democracy, Common Cause, ACLU, University of Delaware Associates Program, and Christiana Cultural Arts Center.
We are called as Christians to care for God’s creation, and there are many practical ways to do so. What follows is one way to help improve the sustainability of the planet.

If you were told to conserve water, what do you do? Most people would limit watering their lawn or washing their cars, buy low-flow plumbing fixtures, or exercise more caution when running their clothes washer or dishwasher. While these approaches do reduce their water consumption, the most effective method by far is to change what you eat. It turns out that for many of us, over 90% of the water we consume is embedded in what we eat.

One of the most interesting environmental sustainability websites that the Earth Care Task Force has come across is called The Water We Eat (www.thewaterweeat.com), which describes in infographics how the foods we eat are responsible for the majority of our water consumption. The website suggests that each day a “typical” consumer uses 36 gallons for household use (e.g., washing dishes, laundry), 44 gallons embedded in industrial products (e.g., clothes and paper towels), and a whopping 923 gallons in the food we eat!

So, why is food associated with so much water use? Consider beef, where the calculated water footprint for a 12 ounce steak is 1,384 gallons! While this number seems staggering, finding out what was needed to produce that steak starts to make things clearer:

- The cow that supplied the steak drank 6,300 gallons during its three-year lifetime.
- That same cow ate grains and roughages (such as hay) that collectively needed 800,000 gallons to grow during its lifetime.
- The slaughtering process to get the meat from the cow required 1,850 gallons.

So, eating beef involves high water consumption, not to mention a high carbon footprint (roughly 10 times that of chicken or fish per mass), and a higher association with heart disease.

The website contains three main recommendations:

1. Reduce your meat (especially beef) intake, specifically declaring one day a week to be meat-free. Even switching your entrée from beef to chicken reduces your water footprint by over two-thirds.
2. When you do consume meat, be sure that it is grass fed. Grass-fed meat is more environmentally sustainable since the land used for pasture is often unfit for growing crops.

3. Do not waste food. When you do so, think about the associated quantity of water that you are also tossing out. For example, throwing away a pound of unused coffee is associated with wasting over 2,000 gallons of water.

The chart here, adapted from the website, shows the amount of water associated with one pound of each food item. Note that coffee has the highest per-mass water footprint of each of the foods listed. One cup of coffee requires 36 gallons of water, which is five times higher than an equivalent cup of tea, so consider making the switch from coffee to tea for your morning caffeine fix.

Further information can be found at:

On March 8, 2010, our Urban Mission Committee voted to accept my written proposal to redirect our Educational Talent Search Scholarship funds to a new WPC Scholarship/UrbanPromise College Retention Fund (WPC Scholarship/UPCRF) and to make the initial $5,000 contribution in memory of the Reverend Chad Miller.

For the past 10 years, we have made an annual $5,000 contribution to this scholarship fund, which provides financial assistance for urban students who progressed through the UrbanPromise mentoring and youth leadership training programs, graduated from high school, and proceeded to post-secondary education. Although students may receive other scholarships, this scholarship assistance is available for students, as needed, throughout their college experience. It helps ensure that they are financially able to complete their education. Westminster was the first contributor, and with very few exceptions, has remained the only contributor to this scholarship fund.

During the past 10 years, this WPC Scholarship has provided assistance to 39 students, for both undergraduate and graduate degree programs, at 21 separate colleges and universities. So far, 19 of those students have graduated and started careers that include nursing and other health care fields, education, business, entertainment, and military service. Currently, there are 14 students who are still pursuing their degrees.
Scholarship Recipient Highlights For 2019

Past Recipients

Steven Ortiz graduated from Delaware State University with a degree in Business Management and has relocated to Georgia, where he has begun his career in business.

Malachi Singletary, a 2017 graduate of Central State University in Ohio with a degree in Elementary Education, teaches second grade in Dayton, Ohio and was married in 2019.

ChaeQuan Anderson, a 2014 graduate of Westminster College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, is a full-time choir director in Trenton, New Jersey, and he recently has become engaged to be married.

Nichelle Orr (nee Holland), a graduate of Coppin State University with a degree in Nursing, is a member of the heart care team at Christiana Care. Nichelle was married in 2016 and was blessed with a son, Asher, in 2019.

Dakota Trent (nee Croxton), a 2013 graduate of Morgan State University with a degree in Nutrition Science, continued her education at Southern California University, where she earned a master’s degree in Health Care. Dakota is now a Health Care Specialist at a care facility in New Jersey and was the keynote speaker in October for the UrbanPromise fundraiser banquet.

Raini Linton, a 2016 graduate of Eastern University with an International Business Degree, works for Chase Bank and was married in 2019.

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Present Recipients

**Mariah Orr**, a senior at Delaware Technical & Community College with a major in Nursing, expressed her appreciation by writing: “This scholarship will help me to focus on my classes without having to worry about how I’m going to pay off debt. Thanks for supporting me.”

**Jasmine Barrett**, a part-time student at Delaware Technical & Community College with Sports Science as her major field of study, asserted: “This scholarship has helped me to register for Spring, and I don’t have to drop out. Thanks so much!”

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**Kiarra Barrett**, a sophomore with a major in Nursing at Delaware State University, expressed her appreciation when she wrote: “Thank you for helping me continue my schooling; without this payment, I would have had to drop out.”

**Jada Jackson**, a sophomore at Delaware State University with a major in Accounting, gratefully wrote: “The scholarship helped me remove a hold on my account and register for classes; thanks so much for helping me continue my education.”

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Since the inception of this scholarship fund, James Russell, Programming Director for UrbanPromise, has worked in faithful liaison with Westminster and our scholarship recipients. James has been our source for background student information, photographs, and much of the data presented. We gratefully acknowledge the dedicated support that James has generously provided for the students and for our scholarship program. As we celebrate this 10th anniversary, James expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of UrbanPromise when he wrote: “We would like to thank you so much for your kind contributions. Since 2010, your generous gifts have helped many students, not only to stay in college and get an education, but also to achieve their dreams. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support.”

For more information, contact Nancy Doyle at (302) 636-9061.

Nancy Doyle with James Russell and his wife, Vanessa, at Westminster’s October Harvest Festival
END DEBTORS’ PRISON: WESTMINSTER SUPPORTS THE CAMPAIGN FOR SMART JUSTICE

More than 20,000 Delawareans lose their drivers’ license each year, and more than 40,000 have outstanding warrants for their arrest, due solely to their inability to pay small amounts of court fines and fees arising from misdemeanor cases. This then means they have no way to legally get to work to earn money to repay these fines and fees. It traps many in poverty in a broken cycle in and out of the criminal justice system.

Delaware Senate Bill 39 (SB 39) – Fines and Fees Bill – would prohibit the automatic suspension of a driver’s license for nonpayment of a fine or fee, allow an ability to pay analysis before the imposition of any fine, fee, cost, or assessment, and require Delaware courts to collect and report data about the imposition and collection of fines and fees.

To learn more about this bill, go to the Delaware General Assembly homepage (http://legis.delaware.gov). Simply type in SB 39, then click on the resulting links for a full synopsis, current status, sponsors, and next steps.

Contact your legislators to express your support for bills as they move toward a vote. It’s an excellent way to let them know that, as a voter, you feel strongly about these issues. Emails, letters, and even a phone call can sway legislators at critical moments especially before key committee meetings and floor debates. Exercise your right to speak up!

Use the Delaware General Assembly link here to find your state legislators: http://legis.delaware.gov/

Simply type your full address into the box labeled, “Who is My Legislator?” This will provide you with your state Senator and Representative with their district number and contact information including email address.
Feel free to use any variation of the template below. If any of the legislators are prime or co-prime sponsors, you can tailor your message to thank them for their support of that bill. Oftentimes, a concise and direct note addressed to a single recipient is the best way to make your voice heard.

**Dear Senator/Representative XXX,**

**Please support criminal justice reform in 2020. As a voter I feel strongly that these bills create more fairness for all of us!**

**Please vote “yes” on SB 39.**

**Thank you,**

*(Your name)*

*(Your zip code)*

Westminster’s Peace & Justice Work Group thanks you for your advocacy in support of those in our community who most need our help.
A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PIVOTAL EVENTS IN WILMINGTON’S RACIAL HISTORY

When the Civil War began, Delaware permitted slavery but refused to join the confederacy. At the end of the war, Wilmington was a prosperous city, number one in the nation in the production of gunpowder and a top producer of iron ships. At the start of World War I, 70% of New Castle County’s population lived within the city limits.

In 1940, its population peaked at 112,500 and Wilmington continued to prosper through World War II, as a prime manufacturing center for ships, machinery, automobiles, and textiles.

But 1950 marked a turning point for Wilmington, with burgeoning numbers of automobiles and roadways making it convenient to live in the suburbs and commute to the city. More than
8,500 homes were built, of which 80% were outside the city limits. General Motors and Chrysler built automotive plants in the area. The first suburban shopping center, The Merchandise Mart on Governor Printz Blvd, opened. Philadelphia retailer John Wanamaker wanted to open a store in the city, but protests from local retailers resulted in its construction on Augustine Cutoff.

Public policy in the form of the Federal Housing Administration’s ban on mortgage loans to people of “inharmonious racial groups” and racially restrictive covenants on home sales meant that mainly only white people were able to move out of the city into the suburbs.

What proved to be faulty thinking about urban renewal (aka “slum clearance”) across the country led to Wilmington’s Poplar Street Project. Twenty-two blocks of the city, containing 600 structures with 970 dwelling units, 95% of which were occupied by people of color, were

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razed for new development, but these blocks would remain desolate for decades. Another Federally funded program purchased and demolished a 10 block section from 4th to 9th Streets, Walnut to King; the program was canceled before new construction funds could be granted.

The construction of I-95, which cut a swath through some of Wilmington’s most stable neighborhoods, led to the demolition of 370 homes in the West Side neighborhood between Adams and Jackson streets and did lasting damage to communities within the city.

The assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in April 1968 led to two days of rioting in a limited section of Wilmington. Although this experience was significantly less damaging that of other American cities, Delaware Governor Terry called in the National Guard for what would turn out to be the longest peacetime occupation of an American city – nine months. This occupation reinforced the view of Wilmington as a dangerous place and intensified the damage to city commerce.

Delaware’s Brown vs. Belton case was one of five cases incorporated in the Supreme Court filing decided as Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954. After years of delay, the programs implemented made Delaware the most desegregated school systems in the country. But subsequent actions in
the Delaware court and legislature resulted in a near total reversal of that progress. Today’s division of the city into four separate school districts has intensified the difficulties faced by Wilmington school children and their families.

Our adult education event on February 2 in Community Hall, featuring former Wilmington Mayor James Baker, civil rights leader Bebe Coker, and education advocate Helen Foss, began this conversation. It is essential that we understand our history, the events and decisions and the consequences that led us to this point, so that we can look with clarity on the issues we need to address as we seek to discern our role in creating paths to peace and justice in our community.

Lynne Kielhorn, civil rights leader Bebe Coker, education advocate Helen Foss, former Wilmington Mayor James Baker, and Sue Linderman
SEEKING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Seventy years of peacemaking efforts have failed to resolve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The situation has only worsened. Many of us in Westminster’s Church in the World (CitW) Committee believe new solutions, where people respect one another and live in harmony and prosper together, are needed. We further believe such solutions can come from grassroots individuals and faith groups committed to Christ’s vision of justice and peace. Therefore, it is our moral duty to speak out against illegal oppression and human rights abuses when we see them in this long conflict.

Thus, CitW asked our Session to consider in November an overture calling for “Ending the Siege of Gaza and Collective Punishment of Innocent Palestinian and Israeli Citizens.” It was approved unanimously on December 16 and sent to New Castle Presbytery where, on January 11, it was again approved unanimously and sent on to the 224th Presbyterian General Assembly for consideration at its June meeting in Baltimore. The purpose of the overture is to denounce the inhumane practice of “collective punishment” by both the Israeli government and Palestinian militants and encourage both sides to refrain from practices that increase hostilities and the loss of life.

A Palestinian family sits in their bombed out home in Gaza, overlooking destruction of their neighborhood. Source: Gaza Unlocked.
Collective punishment is a form of retaliation in which a suspected perpetrator’s family or friends or entire ethnic group are targeted. According to the Geneva Convention, collective punishment is illegal under international law. If passed in June, this overture will become the policy position for our denomination. Specifically, it

1. Calls for the United States government to:

   a. Exhort the government of Israel to immediately cease and desist all hostile actions that are defined as “collective punishment” under International Law. This includes stopping military attacks by air, land, and sea on non-military targets in Gaza that have disproportionately killed thousands of Palestinian civilians and caused billions of dollars in property damage since 2008.

   b. Exhort the government of Israel to end the siege of Gaza that restricts its access to adequate water and electricity and the entrance of food, medicine, and fuel to Palestinians in Gaza so as to alleviate and end the humanitarian and environmental crises caused by the siege and provide the material resources necessary for economic prosperity, human health and safety, and environmental protection.

   c. Exhort the government of Gaza and all Palestinian militias within Gaza to cease and desist all hostile activities against Israel and its citizens that are defined as “collective punishment” under International Law. This includes the launching of unguided rockets into civilian areas of Israel.

2. Directs the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to communicate this action to all other PC(USA) councils, the U.S. Government and to the press and media.

This overture is important because:

1. Jesus and the prophets call on us to seek justice for all people and to liberate the oppressed.

2. More than 50 Westminster members have taken spiritual pilgrimages to Israel/Palestine and seen the devastating effects of the illegal Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

3. $3.8 billion a year in US military aid to Israel (our tax dollars) is supporting the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem and the oppression of the Palestinians – Muslims and Christians alike.

4. In 1947, Christians were 8% of the Palestinian population. Now they comprise 1.2%. If this oppression continues, soon no Christians will be left in the land of Jesus for the first time in 2,000 years.

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This overture is not anti-Semitic. It is not directed at Jews nor is it an effort to undermine the State of Israel. It is in opposition to the policies of the current Israeli government and the Hamas administration and militias in Gaza. It is pro-justice and pro-peace, pro-Palestine and pro-Israel and it advocates for a secure and democratic Israel that abides by the Jewish and Christian values we share.

Table 1: Impact of Collective Punishment Actions Taken by the Israeli and the Gaza Palestinian Governments 2008-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Israel Government Actions Against Palestinian Citizens</th>
<th>Gaza Government Actions Against Israeli Citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilians killed in Israeli and Gaza government attacks</td>
<td>2481</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minors under 18 years killed in Israeli government attacks</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes destroyed/damaged by Israeli and Gaza government attacks</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property damage resulting from Israeli and Gaza government attacks</td>
<td>$6.7 billion</td>
<td>$0.02 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilians with restrictions of food, water and medicine</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilians lives and businesses affected by restriction of fuel and electricity</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens subject to a siege on land, air and sea</td>
<td>1,800,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 statistics on deaths and homes destroyed
PARADIGM LOST

A Conversation and Book Signing with Ian S. Lustick

Thursday, April 2
7:00 p.m.

Family Center at St. Joseph on the Brandywine Church
10 Old Church Road
Wilmington, DE 19807

Please join us for an evening with Dr. Ian S. Lustick, a professor of political science at University of Pennsylvania and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, who will discuss his new book, Paradigm Lost.

Why have Israelis and Palestinians failed to achieve a two-state solution to the conflict that has cost so much and lasted so long? In Paradigm Lost, Lustick brings 50 years as an analyst of the dispute to argue that negotiations for a two-state solution are counterproductive. Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs can enjoy the democracy they deserve but only after decades of struggle amid the unintended but powerful consequences of today’s one-state reality.

There will be a book signing following the conversation. Copies of Paradigm Lost will be available for purchase. RSVP to: delawarephr@gmail.com

SATURDAY BREAKFAST CHANGES ITS START TIME

In recognition of the fact that people like to sleep in on Saturday, the start time for Saturday Breakfast has been changed to 7:00 a.m. We hope this will make it easier for individuals, couples, families and groups to participate. If 7:00 a.m. is still too early, please come when you can. We are there every Saturday and would welcome your help. A Saturday or more would be much appreciated. We look forward to working with you.
PROPERTY NEWS: ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

As you settle into a pew for a Sunday service and glance through the bulletin, you might easily miss a brief notice that often appears: “Easy-to-use assisted listening devices are available for you in the back of the sanctuary and the side entrance off the main hallway.”

For more than two decades, Westminster has depended upon a battery-operated system, which, like all of us, has its good days and bad days. Sometimes individual units fail; on other occasions static reduces the clarity of the sound. Furthermore, advances in hearing technology have made the church’s equipment all but obsolete.

A change was needed. Paul Crothamel and Bob Ridout sought advice from Frank Silva, an audio/video specialist with a lengthy track record of service to the church. Together they settled on a new wireless amplification system with two hearing options. The first serves anyone who has a hearing aid with a built-in telecoil (T-Coil). In this case, the user plugs a neck loop into a hand-held receiver. After adjusting the hearing aid for the new device, enhanced sound is transmitted through the hearing aid without the need of an additional earpiece. This process may vary slightly depending on the make and model of your hearing aid. The second option follows a traditional format for those without a T-Coil in their hearing aid. Here the user relies on an ear loop that plugs into a small receiver no larger than a cell phone.

To test out the equipment, Paul Crothamel invited one of our members to give it a try over the winter; his response: a definitive “two thumbs up.” We encourage anyone with hearing issues to check out the new system. Should you find it beneficial, Paul will be happy to give you a neck loop to use week after week. We also welcome your feedback. If problems arise, let us know. We want to make sure that the inspirational words during Westminster services can be heard by everyone. These are messages no one should miss.
FLYING SOLO

We are a group of single adults who meet to support each other in friendship, through social activities and fellowship. All are welcome to join us, and we are always looking for new participants. Curious about Flying Solo? Contact Bill Kaye at billkaye3@verizon.net.

Sunday Brunch

We meet for brunch on the first and third Sunday of the month at 11:15 a.m. at Catherine Rooney’s in Trolley Square. Upcoming brunch dates are March 1 and March 15.

Other Activities

March 6 – Friday night dinner at Grain Craft Bar and Kitchen in Bear, Delaware.

March 20 – Potluck game night at Margo Reign’s home. RSVP to margoreign@gmail.com by March 18 if you can attend. Bring a snack and/or beverage to share.

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.

James A. Cartmell
June 24, 1959 – December 12, 2019

Pauline “Polly” Chenery McPheeters
November 14, 1927 – December 25, 2019

Janet Snelling Rucker
July 1, 1932 – December 31, 2019

Leslie “Les” W. Whitney
June 20, 1920 – January 11, 2020

James “Jim” R. Hodges
March 7, 1928 – January 14, 2020
Pastors
The Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
The Rev. Jill Getty

WPC Director of Marketing and Communications
Nicole D. Hughes

Graphic Design by
Trellist Marketing & Technology

Next Chimes Deadline:
Monday, March 9, at 11:00 a.m.
For the April 2020 Issue
Submissions can be made at
www.wpc.org/communications

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Sunday, March 8
2:00 a.m.

Spring forward! Remember to set your clocks one hour AHEAD before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 7.

SPRING FORWARD