CHRISTMAS GIVING STILL GIVING

You know how some folks wait until after the holidays to get the most value for their Christmas gifts? That’s what is happening with your Christmas Box (CB) donations. Having the church doors closed due to the virus opened your hearts far beyond the conservative planning of the CB Committee! The budget for 75 families was reached before the first of December, but donations kept coming in, leaving the CB Elves with the wonderful problem of how to reach more families in the community.

Arrangements were quickly made to purchase more ShopRite cards. After adding an additional amount to each “shopping bag” for the original 75 families, staff from Family Promise, UrbanPromise, FAITH Center at Lutheran Community Services (LCS), and Friendship House were each given $500 worth of cards to give to other families they serve. Cards worth $200 and the remainder of the shopping bags were also delivered to Hanover Food Closet.

When Westminster’s blue doors closed on Distribution Day on December 15, the CB Elves thought it was time to rest and drink hot chocolate. But this generous congregation had other ideas! When the books closed at the end of December, the Urban Mission Committee was left with the question of how to allocate more unspent Christmas donations.

We reached out to our mission partners with two questions: What was the feedback from the 75 families who received “Christmas bags”? What needs did their families have that would still honor the spirit of your CB donations?

Continued on page 4
It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the first quarter of the year. We continue to move forward in our church growth mindset and hopefully in our own personal growth mindset in spite of COVID-19’s devastating effects.

This past year has been one of challenges for all of us and for our ministries. Each person on this planet has certainly struggled at some point to cope with the maddening effects of the pandemic. While we continue to weather this storm, our church has some wonderful opportunities to help you stay connected as well as deal with some of your thoughts and feelings.

In the midst of the pandemic, the Deacon Board has been very proactive and is continuing to provide opportunities to overcome the isolation blues.

On the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m., the Deacons host Virtual Trivia Night on Zoom. This family-friendly event is a fun way to safely interact with others while stimulating your brain. You can use your laptop to join us on Zoom and a cell phone or other device to play the trivia game on Kahoot! For questions about Virtual Trivia Night, email Deacon Moderator Jenn Blackford at blackfordj11@gmail.com.

To join Virtual Trivia Night on Zoom, click this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88920482642
Meeting ID: 889 2048 2642

The Deacons hosted the first ever Cooking With Company on Zoom in February, and we plan to host another one soon. Watch for details in the Weekly Word e-newsletter.

Deacons are planning some on-campus socially-distanced events this year: the Easter Festival on April 4; the Summer Celebration on June 6; and the Fall Festival on October 17. These will be family-friendly events and, due to COVID, signups will be required.

If you are interested in attending the Easter Festival, please email Deacon Emily Pfaff at emily.pfaff@me.com to register. Families will participate together in crafts, and the event will end in an excited sprint to hunt for Easter eggs.

This past year also precipitated the start of the Women’s Online Community Group on Zoom, which meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. It is open to all women who want to meet for fellowship, small group discussion, and prayer. This has been a wonderful way to get to know others. We meet as a large group and then divide into smaller breakout rooms on Zoom for small group guided conversations and discussions. No preparation is necessary. If you have questions about this group, email Jill Getty jgetty@wpc.org.
To attend the Women’s Online Community Group on Zoom, please click this link:  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477914100  
Meeting ID: 477 914 100

Tara Lee and I were in the midst of planning the curriculum for our first Better Days Grief Support Group when the shutdown occurred last March. We had to move to Zoom to continue our planning process and at first we contemplated whether we could even have a grief support group if it was not in person at the church.

We decided to move ahead on Zoom and had the first Better Days Grief Support Group last fall. What a brave experience for those attending, as grief is a normal but overwhelming and sometime shattering experience to confront. The group connected with shared experiences and group activities to process internal thoughts and feelings. Tara Lee, Jerry Spilecki and I are going to offer the Better Days Grief Support Group again this coming September.

Many people are grieving the loss of loved ones this year for various reasons. If you have had a family member or dear friend die this past year, you are most likely in grief – even if that death was expected after a long illness or after a long life span. Grief wrecks havoc with our souls and sometimes it is hard to walk through. Many try stoically to persevere on their own, which can lead to feelings of isolation and deeper sadness. Being able to process some of that grief with others who are also grieving the loss of their loved one is important. If you are interested in being part of the Better Days Grief Support Group that will begin in September, please email me jgetty@wpc.org.

Last year when we closed the building, our Stephen Leaders and I were in the midst of training a new Stephen Ministry Class. We quickly adapted to Zoom and completed the class in April. We have 20 Stephen Ministers who are empathetic listeners and have been trained with listening skills who stand ready to journey alongside those who are going through a life crisis. To maintain safety, Stephen Ministers use the phone, FaceTime and Zoom to interact with individuals during COVID restrictions. If you would like a Stephen Minister, please contact Jill Getty, or if you would like to talk with a pastor for any reason, please contact Greg, Sudie or Jill.

Our Prayer Ministry Team remains vigilant praying for our church family, our country, and our world. If you have a prayer request, please send submissions to Jill Getty or submit online via our secure website at www.wpc.org/pastoral-congregational-care (click the “Submit a Prayer Request Online” button).

May God bring comfort to our hearts and minds and give us strength and energy as we creatively move forward during this continued season of unrest and world illness.

God’s peace and grace,

Jill
FLYING SOLO

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 has suspended its activities for the foreseeable future. While we miss gathering as a group and seeing each other, we only want to plan activities when it is safe to do so. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Bill Kaye at billkaye3@verizon.net.

Continued from cover

First: Response to the Walmart gift cards from recipient families was extremely positive. While we know that some families bought necessities like socks and underwear, one family bought matching pajamas to celebrate Christmas, something they would not have been able to afford within their household budget. What joy! Here is a portion of the thank you note from Lori McClain at UrbanPromise:

...Thank you for the tremendous response of gift cards that you provided over the Christmas holidays. We were blessed by your unique and creative approach this year. Instead of allowing COVID restrictions to put a damper on the holidays, your thoughtful redirection of giving in the form of grocery and Walmart gift cards was a huge success! Our families were thrilled to be empowered to purchase gifts for their children and select favorite holiday foods at their local grocery store. Surplus gift cards were put to use and met several urgent needs that arose a few days before Christmas. We are so grateful.

Second: Our mission partners were thrilled to know that the Westminster congregation was offering more gifts after Christmas. The consensus was that Walmart gift cards would make it possible for families to best determine their own needs and make decisions to use the gift cards for food, clothing, cleaning or hygiene supplies, or household items.

At the Urban Mission Committee meeting in February, the committee determined allocations of the remaining Christmas Box donations between UrbanPromise, FAITH Center at LCS, and Friendship House. Through this congregation’s generosity, Christmas is still to come for some families.
**Palm/Passion Sunday — March 28**

**Worship — 9:00 a.m.**
The Palm Sunday processional is the beginning of the final week in the life of Jesus. A reservation is required to attend in person (see the Weekly Word e-newsletter) or watch live on our YouTube channel.

**Maundy Thursday — April 1**

**Worship — 7:00 p.m. (online only)**
Westminster's storytellers and our choristers will lead us through our Savior’s final hours on earth.

**Good Friday — April 2**
Reflect on the crucifixion through silent prayer and meditation safely in your home.

**Easter Sunday — April 4**

9:00 a.m.
Christ is risen! Join us for a festive worship service celebrating Christ’s triumphant resurrection, with an inspirational sermon by Dr. Jones. A reservation is required to attend in person (see the Weekly Word e-newsletter) or watch live on our YouTube channel.

10:15 a.m.
Easter Festival (see page 6)

**Virtual Choir**
The Westminster Choir, having successfully become a virtual choir for Christmas Caroling, will reconvene to prepare a recording that will be released on Westminster’s YouTube channel on Easter morning. Please watch for more details in the Weekly Word e-newsletter.

**Handbell Choir**
Westminster’s handbell choir will raise its voice in bronze for Holy Week. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays, beginning March 3 at 5:30 p.m. No prior ringing experience is necessary, but the ability to read music is helpful and a commitment to rehearsal attendance is essential. For more information or to participate, please email TonyThurman@wpc.org.
Join our Board of Deacons for our Easter Festival! There will be bag decorating, family-friendly crafts, card writing to our friends at large, and an Easter Egg Hunt. Family units will be given individual materials and their own table. Activities will take place in Community Hall, except for the Egg Hunt, which will move outside if weather permits (if not, we will hide eggs indoors).

Masks and social distancing required. RSVP is a must due to limited numbers inside!

Please email emily.pfaaff@me.com to RSVP. This is in addition to your worship reservation.

Hope to see you there!
You are welcome to make a contribution toward the decoration of the church on Easter Sunday in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones. Please complete this form, make check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, and mail to Susan Alexander at the reception desk by **Monday, March 22**. For any form received after that date, the names will be listed in the April 11th bulletin.

**DONATION AMOUNT**

- [ ] $20  
- [ ] $40  
- [ ] $60  
- [ ] $80  
- [ ] $100  
- [ ] Other $ ____________

**PLEASE PRINT NEATLY**

- In Memory Of: (FOR THE DECEASED)

______________________________

_Deceased Person’s Name_

- In Honor Of: (FOR THE LIVING)

______________________________

_Living Person’s Name_

- Given By:

______________________________

_Donor’s Name and Telephone Number_

You may take a lily home with you following the 9:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. We are also delivering lilies to local retirement communities to share the joy of the season.
Music at Westminster

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of February, we observed Black History Month in our service music and anthems, including arrangements by William Dawson (*There Is a Balm In Gilead* and *Ain’a That Good News!* ) and Moses Hogan (*Great Day* and *Hear My Prayer*). We also heard a recent choral work by Rosephanye Dunn Powell (*Walk with Me*). In our preludes and postludes, we heard organ works by Adolphus Hailstork and Florence Price.

William Dawson (1899–1990)

Although the Alabama native is best remembered for his choral arrangements, it is important to note that he made significant contributions to chamber and symphonic repertoire as well. His *Negro Folk Symphony* garnered the attention of Leopold Stokowski and was premiered by the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1934.

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

The Rochester, N.Y. native enjoys a distinguished career as a composer and educator. He earned a doctorate in music composition from Michigan State University, a master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music, and studied composition with Nadia Boulanger at the American Institute in Fontainebleau, France. He is professor of music and composer-in-residence at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.
Moses Hogan (1957–2003)
The New Orleans native is best remembered for his choral arrangements. He was a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and attended Juilliard for graduate studies and enjoyed a great career as a pianist, arranger, and conductor before a brain tumor took his life at age 45.

Rosephanye Dunn Powell (b. 1962)
The Alabama native has been hailed as the most often performed and published African-American female composer of choral music. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, she earned a doctorate at Florida State University and is now professor of voice at Auburn University where she also conducts the women’s chorus and gospel choir.

Florence Smith Price (1887–1953)
The Little Rock native, born to mixed-race parents, passed herself as Mexican to avoid racial discrimination. She studied organ and piano at the New England Conservatory of Music and was the first African-American woman to enjoy success as a symphonic composer. The symphonic influence in her organ compositions evoke an invitation to the Divine.

Continued on page 10
WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

During the month of March, we will be recognizing the gifts of women composers in observance of Women’s History Month. Our service music and anthems will include works by Alice Parker, Clara Schumann, Nancy Wertsch, and others.

Alice Parker (b. 1925)

The Boston native has five operas, 11 song-cycles, 33 cantatas, 11 works for chorus and orchestra, 47 choral suites, and more than 40 hymns to her credit. She is best known for her association with the Robert Shaw Chorale in Atlanta, for which she composed and arranged music for 20 years. Parker attended Smith College (later receiving the Smith College Medal) where she earned double degrees in organ and composition, studied choral conducting at Juilliard, and was honored on the cover of Time magazine in 1947.

Clara Wieck Schumann (1819–1896)

The German-born pianist was not only one of the finest concert pianists of her day, but was also an accomplished composer. Were it not for Clara, her husband Robert Schumann would not have been the composer he was, for she not only premiered his latest works but also edited them for publication. Some similarities in compositional style between the husband and wife might cause one to wonder who composed what.
Nancy Wertsch (b. 1948)
The Wisconsin native enjoys a career as a pianist, mezzo-soprano soloist, composer, teacher, professional chorister, choral contractor, and consultant in New York City. Her education includes piano at the University of Wisconsin in Madison; and voice at the Aspen Music School, Music Academy of the West, and the Curtis Institute of Music. She studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin on a Fulbright grant. Her music is published by Oxford University Press, G. Schirmer, Carus-Verlag, and Nancy Wertsch Music, Ltd.

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT RESUMES

Virtual Trivia Night is making a comeback! No trivia knowledge is needed to play. All ages and families welcome! Each month our games have a theme. We will use Kahoot and Zoom. Two devices are recommended to play; they can be phones, tablet, etc., as long as they have an internet connection. Trivia nights will be held on March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, August 25, September 22, and October 27, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom using this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88920482642. Please email Jenn Blackford (blackfordj11@gmail.com) with questions.
The Congregational Engagement Team continues to ask questions and listen to your stories and experiences to discern more about member interests and the emerging church. There are some clear trends surfacing on which activities are ensuring that WPC continues to thrive. I mentioned in the December issue of the Chimes that two of these trends are involvement in social justice issues and responding to earth care concerns. These are national trends, too, and of particular interest to younger members.

One article from Ministry Impact resources noted that the question to ask our younger Gen Y and Z community is: “What gives people hope for the future?” Doing the work of caring for people and caring for the earth helps our younger members to find “hope and heroes.” You can read the article here: https://ministry.acst.com/the-church-growth-generation-gap/. We’ll bring more of it into discussion at our next Discernment Team Sunday discussion group. Our January discussions primarily focused on ideas outlined in the book "Grounded" by Diana Butler Bass. Those who participated created rich and stimulating conversation giving us a lot to think about relative to our faith and spiritual practices. Watch the Weekly Word e-newsletter for further information on the next Sunday discussion groups.

Other trends include continuing to grow our use of technology. People have found that Zoom meetings are often easier to attend than driving to church and less driving is better for the planet. Many have been surprised that we can still have intimate and meaningful conversations digitally. And as much as we enjoy seeing and being with each other, we have found benefits to these new modes of gathering. While we don’t anticipate swapping all in-person meetings for online ones, we do see a mix of the two providing good options once we are free to meet up again. Very few of the Westminster meetings I’ve been in lately leave out the mention of missing our contact with one another and the desire to be in-person again soon.

Change tends to confuse and disorient. However, with all of the change we’ve weathered in the last
year, we are likely becoming more resilient and able to focus on what matters most. For some, change is interesting; that is often until we realize We/I have to change. Then it becomes much less interesting, and sometimes even scary.

Some change is *transactional* — easily expressed and fairly predictable. Wearing masks and washing our hands more frequently falls into this category. But when things get more complex, we’re typically speaking of *transformational* change. This kind of change is more mysterious and much harder to express and understand. Trying to decipher how Christianity has evolved over the years is complex. Trying to understand how our own faith has changed over our lives is also murky.

It is likely we’ve all been changed by living through this pandemic. Perhaps we’ve thought more about death than we might in a typical year. For some, the changes from 2020 will be significant, deep, and difficult. Transformational change requires time. It evolves with contemplation and reflection that brings insight and a new way of seeing the world. We often think of chaotic, dark night of the soul, emptying experiences, that bring us to transformation, likened to the passing through the eye of a needle. It’s hard, it’s challenging, but it is how we grow.

Surely, living through a pandemic could provide the fertile ground for transformation to occur. It has certainly created confusion. Many of our rituals and daily habits pre-COVID-19 have died off. Will we go back to “normal?” No. We can’t. We’d have to unlearn, delete insights, and “ungrow” in order to go back to the way it was. But that doesn’t necessarily make going forward any easier. Just as Jonah in his confusion, we all get spit up on some new shoreline from time to time. Some of us have gone to church our whole lives, and here we are watching it digitally, that is, when we can get in sync with the technology.

Soon you will see a request to complete an online survey so we can get some quantifiable data to share back with you as we learn more about who we are as a community.

If you feel called to serve on the Discernment Team, please be in touch with Janet Steinwedel at (302) 690-5207 (call or text) or at janet@leadersinsight.com. We can give you a little job or a big one!

---

Members: Michele Butler, Jill Getty, Nancy Michener, Janet Steinwedel. Friends of the team: Nicole Hughes, Teresa Lunardi, Barbara Stratton, Jon McPheeters. Staff liaison: Sudie Niesen Thompson
EARTH CARE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
PART 2: SUPPORTING THIS NOBLE EFFORT

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.

Environmental justice involves addressing the many issues related to the environment that disproportionately harm low-income communities and communities of color, and these communities are often excluded from the decision-making process. The PC(USA) has recognized this issue and discussed it in "Environmental Racism – an ecumenical study guide" in 2010. The January/February 2021 Chimes outlined the general forms of environmental injustices, and this article focuses on steps you can take to enact positive change towards environmental justice. While Earth Care Chimes articles usually focus on individual actions you can take, tackling environmental justice involves advocacy:

• **Think Local.** Environmental justice issues are present everywhere and are embedded in all facets of environmental stewardship. Consider being involved in your community. Several communities have environmental advisory boards or councils, or they host regular public meetings. The inset provides a list of where to locate these organizations.

• **Vote Smart.** Research every candidate for every position in each election, not just relying on flashy advertising, who has the most yard signs, or which party they are affiliated with. On the environmental justice front, you can learn about federal incumbent senators and representatives through the League of Conservation Voters scorecard. Ballotpedia and Vote Smart have information on federal and state candidates.
Local Environmental Advisory Boards/Councils

- The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has 26 committees, boards, and taskforces to address the myriad of environmental issues associated with the state, with many covering issues related to environmental justice. Many of these groups have public meetings, although most are in Dover. There are many opportunities to volunteer with DNREC in areas including research, stewardship, education, and in annual events such as tree planting and coastal cleanup efforts. Of note is the Delaware Native Species Commission, which has a series of symposia to raise awareness of the importance of native species, which will be discussed in a future Chimes article.

- The Citizens Climate Lobby advocates for limiting climate change; the Wilmington Chapter can be found here.

- A comprehensive listing of Delaware environmental organizations is at http://www.eco-usa.net/orgs/de.shtml.

- The First Unitarian Church of Wilmington has an Environmental Justice Task Force. WPC has had past interactions with this church regarding earth care.

- The Sierra Club has a Delaware chapter that meets monthly at the Community Service Building in Wilmington.

- The Delaware Nature Society has many volunteer opportunities, including many with strong environmental justice aspects.

- The U.S. EPA has Community Advisory Groups for superfund sites such as the ones in Hockessin and Claymont.

- Newark has a Green Building Code Work Group that is open to volunteers.

- The New Castle Conservation District is one of the affiliates for the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts.

- Delaware Interfaith Power and Light (DeIPL) meets regularly to address the effects of climate change including environmental justice.

- The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) has numerous programs addressing environmental justice including urban gardens and tree planting. DCH is part of the Wilmington Tree project, and DCH has worked in women's prisons to help inmates plant a flower garden.

- Delaware County, PA has a list of environmental organizations here, including advisory boards for Media and Nether Providence. Mannington Township, NJ also has an environmental commission.

- Half of WPC’s community garden plots are offered to community residents, and excess food from the gardens goes to St. Stephen's food pantry. Youth from UrbanPromise have historically maintained a bed within the garden.

- Join Westminster’s Earth Care Task Force.

Continued on page 16
• **Advocate.** Contact your elected officials to express your concerns. The list of officials associated with Westminster's location and their contact information are in the table. Document their contact information and bookmark their websites for submitting online letters. An even easier approach is to sign up for advocacy groups to get periodic automated letters for submission to elected officials in support of environmental justice. These actions help shape and move legislation forward. For example, New Castle County Ordinance 20-101, passed in 2020, requires the county's comprehensive plan to include sections dedicated to environmental and social justice and hazard mitigation. New Castle County's development of its 2050 plan is currently underway, and there currently are water bills and renewable energy proposals in the Delaware General Assembly that need support.

It is up to all of us to promote environmental justice, and fortunately the above actions take a major step forward toward the goal. If we each do our small part, we can collectively make a big impact to make God's earth equitable for all its residents.

**Further reading:**
- New Castle Conservation District, [https://www.newcastlecd.org/](https://www.newcastlecd.org/).
- Delaware Interfaith Power and Light, [https://delawareipl.org/wp/](https://delawareipl.org/wp/).
- Delaware Center for Horticulture, [https://thedch.org/](https://thedch.org/).
- CommonCause, [https://www.commoncause.org/](https://www.commoncause.org/).
# Contact Information for Elected Officials Associated with Westminster’s Location
(from [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov) and [CommonCause.org](https://www.commoncause.org))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email/E-contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President Joe Biden</td>
<td>202-456-1414 (White House switchboard) or 202-456-1111 (comments line)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact">https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Senator Chris Koons</td>
<td>(202) 224-5042</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coons.senate.gov/contact">www.coons.senate.gov/contact</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor John Carney</td>
<td>(302) 744-4101 (Dover), (302) 577-3210 (Wilmington)</td>
<td><a href="https://governor.delaware.gov/email-governor-carney">https://governor.delaware.gov/email-governor-carney</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Senator (District 1) Sarah McBride</td>
<td>(302) 744-4147</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sarah.McBride@delaware.gov">Sarah.McBride@delaware.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Rep. (House District 4) Gerald Brady</td>
<td>302-744-4351</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Gerald.Brady@delaware.gov">Gerald.Brady@delaware.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Michael Purzycki</td>
<td>302-576-2100</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mspurzycki@wilmingtonde.gov">mspurzycki@wilmingtonde.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Council Member (8th Dist.) Nathan Field</td>
<td>(302) 530-6626</td>
<td><a href="https://www.wilmingtoncitycouncil.com/council-members/nathan-field/">https://www.wilmingtoncitycouncil.com/council-members/nathan-field/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that Westminster member Senator Tom Carper is a co-chair for the [Environmental Justice Caucus](https://www.ejcaucus.org) and chair of the [U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works](https://environment.senate.gov).*
WESTMINSTER'S PEACE & JUSTICE WORK GROUP SUPPORTS 2021 DELAWARE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We join with other community social justice organizations to urge the 151st Delaware General Assembly to prioritize education equity, protecting our elections, and expanding the progress we have made on Smart Justice reform. These priorities include:

- Reforming school funding;
- Creating an Education Ombudsperson Office;
- Ensuring compliance of the 2018 school discipline reform law;
- Passing the No-Excuse Absentee Voting Constitutional Amendment bill (HB 15);
- Passing the Same-Day Registration bill (HB 25);
- Passing permanent vote by mail legislation;
- Reforming fines and fees and ending automatic drivers’ license suspension;
- Expanding sentencing modification and early release options and removing all drug crimes from the violent felony list;
- Reforming our broken probation system;
- Ensuring police accountability and transparency;
- Passing a clean slate bill to automate the expungement and record sealing process; and
- Passing the Public Health Credit bill (HB 37).

For more detailed information, see:
Videos from the six-part series recently completed as part of First & Central Presbyterian Church Sunday morning Explorers Forum are available at:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBUuplf-dWQDcNWoVMm4RLaXDNdahJDW1

More classes are under way with Concord Presbyterian Church, St. Philip’s and St. Stephen’s Lutheran Churches, and the University of Michigan Club of Delaware. More classes will likely be scheduled in the future.

RACISM IN AMERICA
THE HISTORY WE DIDN’T LEARN IN SCHOOL

Sue Linderman sue@wpc.org

Continued on page 20
Westminster is blessed to have so many people involved in addressing so many needs in our community, country and world. The Peace & Justice Work Group continues to grow and educate our members and friends on many social justice issues. Recently, Sue Linderman led a six-week Zoom education series on “Racism in America – The History We Didn’t Learn in School” as part of our ongoing partnership with The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM). Classes covered: The Early Years, Slavery by Another Name, Public Policy & the Civil Rights Movement, Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs, Voter Suppression – Then and Now, and Where Do We Go From Here? Hearing from our black brothers and sisters enabled us all to gain added insight about these past struggles and those that exist today. We welcome everyone to use these opportunities to learn more and share thoughts on the ways we can commit our energies to correct the profound inequities that exist in our society. Please feel free to contact Mike Gnade (302-562-4464 or mgnade@hotmail.com), Lynne Kielhorn (302-593-5527 or lynne@kielhorn.us) or Sue Linderman (302-239-7650 or srlinder@dca.net). – Mike Gnade

Sue Linderman has compiled an illuminating and sobering presentation comprised of six classes entitled “Racism: The History We Didn’t Learn in School.” I had the privilege to participate in these classes in conjunction with a group from SsAM, which provided the presentation of the class and then discussion and reflection from those in attendance. The information was so well presented by Sue and the discussions enhanced by each perspective that was provided from members of the group. The information we learned was often shocking and painful and perhaps that is the very reason it is so important to learn it. – Sandie Reinicker
Sue Linderman introduced her Racism in America class during a New Castle Presbytery meeting last July. The group diversity represented by age, gender, race and life experiences was an important part of this experience for me. We were all hearing Sue’s well researched and articulate presentation for the first time. At first, I felt out of my league because I knew so little about the history being described. During the discussion, I realized that many in this group were surprised as well by their own lack of knowledge and shared their appreciation for this time together. The opportunity to interact with another diverse group from SsAM has continued to open windows of understanding based on Sue’s thorough research followed by discussions among the participants. I value what I have learned as well as the format of the sessions and will continue to participate in future classes. – **Susan Williamson**

I, like many white people, underestimated the depth of racism in America. The murder of George Floyd and the pandemic magnified the inequalities in American society. Sue’s class on racism could not have come at a more urgent time. Most Americans know and acknowledge the ugly history of slavery in America — but systemic racism also found its way more insidiously into the institutions and policies many of us revere and seek to safeguard. There is a straight line between these policies and the state of black America today. It is no exaggeration to say that this course is indispensable for anyone concerned with how our country can heal and unify. If we are serious about ending racism, we must have a precise understanding of what we are ending. Sue’s extraordinary class makes plain the deeply embedded infrastructure in American hierarchy. James Baldwin observed, “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” – **Dede Johnston**
VULNERABLE CHILDREN RECEIVE A SECOND CHANCE IN EAST KASAI, CONGO

Paraphrasing Matthew 25, vs.40 –
“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the most vulnerable, you did for me.”

The idea that any good might come out of a pandemic seems absurd! It was thought that once the world was forced into hibernation, our heroic international mission workers could regroup with well-deserved rest. Not so for Presbyterian Missioner Christi Boyd, who restructured the ministry to orphans and other vulnerable children in the Katanga region of Congo (DRC).

The number of orphans, the displaced, and all other vulnerable children in Congo increases with economic stress. When families are not able to feed or educate all of their children, children may be “shed.” Christi Boyd speaks openly of one such child having been accused of being a sorcerer and expelled from his home and onto the streets. Orphanages are extremely expensive. Building structures, feeding, clothing and educating orphans have dwindling sources of funding. So, community based transition centers and halfway houses have opened. This option shelters while also working to find the children's biologic families for reunification. Even this center-based model continues to be too expensive. Run on shoestring budgets, there are often insufficient funds to staff 24/7 and pursue the goal of family reunification.

Like Westminsterites, with the onset of pandemic 2020, missioners Jeff and Christi Boyd worked their connections through FaceTime, Zoom and phone. Brainstorming with social workers from the DRC State Department, different religious communities and NGOs, they explored a model used by the National Catholic Church Office for Children. Working within that group, Jeff and Christi clarified their understandings, sharpened the plans, and calculated budgets.

Women on the outskirts of Mbuji Mayi (East Kasai) catch and sell rainwater to pay for school fees of orphaned children in their congregation.
A church-wide paradigm shift occurred from center-based care to a model where children are taken in by host families who are members of Congo Presbyterian Church (CPC) congregations. Dramatically, the financial support base with this plan moved from U.S. Presbyterian churches to Congolese Presbyterian churches. This model changes from donor-dependency to self-reliance! Former center resources are freed up to locate and reunify families, and more children may be helped than with centers.

This new plan requires a four member volunteer committee from each of CPC’s 192 congregations in East Kasai. They will oversee the needs of the host families and promote children's rights while also monitoring for any hint of abuse. All of the social service agencies, the Catholic Church, and local health clinics help in monitoring this new plan. For host families to survive themselves, they must generate more income by such varied enterprises as: from kitchen gardens, palm nut tree plantations, and poultry farms, to making cisterns to catch and sell rainwater, building apartments for rent, etc. These are all self-supporting initiatives.

While schools are out in the DRC due to the pandemic, reunification of families has proceeded with greater success! However, more funding is needed in several other areas. Hand-in-hand with reunification, the challenge of meeting school tuition has been assisted with educational scholarships and funding for these scholarships from U.S. Presbyterian churches. One-time training for host families is another budgeted item that needs outside support. Modest financial gifts from PC(USA) congregations can promote the Congolese culture in which all children are seen as the responsibility of the entire community.

In the words of Christi Boyd,

"The paradigm shift for this ministry of the CPC is ‘revolutionary.' The plans are bold and courageous and have already invigorated all 192 CPC congregations in East Kasai who are eager to employ their meager resources to partake in this ministry to give vulnerable children a second chance. It is in the PC(USA)’s continuous journey with our global siblings that we embody our kinship in Christ while gaining a window into the world to see the faces of Jesus in those ministered to by them."

To seek further information on Jeff and Christi Boyd’s vital ministry on our behalf, go to presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/caring-vulnerable-children-congo
"BUILD BACK BETTER"? WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE BIDEN TEAM – PRESENTATION BY SAM BAHOUR

Saturday, March 13
1:00 p.m.

Sam Bahour will talk about what we may expect from the new administration on the Israeli-Palestinian Occupation and US foreign policy.

Please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclduivpjMuHtwe_B_wJPbJyZsyRso-2S4a

Hosted by Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights. Co-sponsors: Delaware Churches for Middle East Peace; Students for Justice in Palestine, University of Delaware.

Sam Bahour is a Palestinian-American, born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio and is managing partner of Applied Information Management (AIM), a consulting firm specializing in business development with a niche focus on start-ups and providing executive counsel. Bahour was instrumental in the establishment of two publicly traded firms: the Palestine Telecommunications Company (PALTEL) and the Arab Palestinian Shopping Center. He is currently an independent director at the Arab Islamic Bank and an advisory board member of the Open Society Foundations' MENA Office. Bahour serves in various capacities in several community organizations, including cofounder of Americans for a Vibrant Palestinian Economy (AVPE), and board member of Just Vision in Washington, D.C., among others. He writes frequently on Palestinian affairs and has been widely published in leading outlets. He is co-editor of HOMELAND: Oral History of Palestine and Palestinians (1993), tweets at @SamBahour and blogs at www.epalestine.ps.
### WHO ARE OUR CHURCH OFFICERS?

**Westminster Presbyterian Church Officers 2021 – 2023**

#### ELDERS

**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
- Michelle Butler
- Chip Pfleegor

**Class of 2023**
- Clark Collins
- Dick Jolly
- Susan McPheeters
- KC Morrison
- Carrie Saathoff
- Kent Smith
- Janet Steinwedel
- Gill Timon

Moderator: Greg Jones  
Clerk: Jan Patrick

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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

**Class of 2023**
- Rich Albert
- Tom Preston
- Kris Qualls
- Stan Stevenson

President: Tom Preston  
Vice President: Charles Babcock  
Secretary: Dan Weintraub

#### BOARD OF DEACONS

**Class of 2021**
- Jennifer Blackford
- Beatty Chadwick
- Kate Dietz (Youth)
- Lili Gerstenschlager (Youth)
- Mary Laskaris
- Tara Lee
- Marsha Mah
- Blair McConnel
- Bob Moore
- Emily Pfaff
- Sandie Reinicker
- Lisa Stoddard
- Sue Weissinger
- Pam White

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

**Class of 2023**
- Kyle Carrick
- Joe Daley
- Tammy Daley
- Nancy Fleming
- Kendra Gallagher
- Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins
- Jamie Hickey
- Dan McAllister
- Debbie McCullough
- Lynne Perkins
- Lois Underhill
- Pam Wilson

Moderator: Jenn Blackford  
Vice Moderator: Sandra Wermus
PROPERTY NEWS: REMEMBERING THE PAST, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

How can anyone forget that Sunday last March, when life at Westminster took a tumultuous turn? COVID-19 flipped a switch and suddenly hugs and handshakes gave way to social distancing and masks. Zoom meetings replaced in-person gatherings, and Sunday services went virtual. Our church routines changed but not our mission to serve others. The congregation responded with extraordinary generosity. Every week, we dropped off sandwiches, water, and other items destined for those in need. We collected gloves and coats; blankets and boots (and so much more!) to support individuals near and far — from those a few blocks away to displaced Syrians struggling to survive in refugee camps along the Turkish border. And we did not pass up opportunities. When 1307 North Rodney Street became available, Westminster acted. Over the past year, we adapted; we found new ways to stay connected; and we relied on our faith to give us hope during times of sadness.

Like so many other church committees, the Property Committee adjusted its work plan for 2020. Most interior refurbishment projects were postponed. Instead, the committee focused on supplying a stronger Wi-Fi signal and better video equipment for the virtual services, continuing the process of repointing the stonework on the church façade, and guiding the process of acquiring the Rodney Street property and preparing it for use as transitional housing for Friendship House.

As we look forward to 2021, we anticipate a host of smaller projects overseen by various members of the committee. Some will be obvious to you when Westminster is fully opened once again. Look for better lighting in the Ruth Christie Room, repairs to the carpet in the main hall, a new floor and refreshed appearance in Classroom 5, and improved landscaping near the church entrance. Other changes will be far less visible. The main hallway will acquire a new roof, and additional Wi-Fi hot spots will be added throughout the church. The repointing of the exterior stonework on the Rodney Street side of the Club Room will complete the multi-year process of cleaning the beautiful façade of Westminster.

Thanks to the efforts of Tony Thurman and committee member Charlie Babcock, we will begin minor repairs to the organ and
replace damaged cables for our beloved Tower Chime. And we are grateful for the effort of Paul Crothamel and the Phix-It Corps who save us countless dollars on projects throughout our facilities.

This brief description only skims the surface of the Property Committee's plans for 2021. Under the direction of Bob Ridout, committee members have taken on 22 projects, which collectively will enhance the beauty and ensure the long-term preservation of our entire physical plant. All of us on the committee are most grateful for the success of the capital campaign and continued support of existing endowments. Together these sources fund all of the expenses incurred by the committee.

Eventually COVID-19 will pass, and we will all come together again within Westminster. Please know that we are doing all we can to prepare our stunning facilities for that day. We too look forward to handshakes or fist bumps, or just the joy of seeing folks in person. And with the opening of the building, we also say hallelujah for the return of Family Promise, UrbanPromise, AA, NA, the Westminster Bazaar, the Food Truck Festival, and so much more. Bring it on!

This photo of a rainbow over Westminster, taken by Judy Stoddard several years ago and entitled “good omen” by her and her husband Bob, serves as a reminder of our hope for the future.
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 8, at 11:00 a.m.
For the April 2021 Issue
Submissions can be made at
www.wpc.org/communications

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
Sunday, March 14
2:00 a.m.
Remember to set your clocks one hour AHEAD before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 13.

SPRING FORWARD