

**MARCH  
2017**

# *The Westminster* **WINDOW**

**Issue 3  
Volume 15**

Sunday Service Times: 10 AM Worship and 4 PM Jazz Vespers



## **MARCH LECTIONARY READINGS**

### 3/1 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### 3/5 - First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

### 3/12 - Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17, Matthew 17:1-9

### 3/19 - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### 3/26 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41



**Water  
Fun!**

**A WICC  
MOMENT**



## **GIVING UP RACIAL PREJUDICE FOR LENT**

*(even if we don't think we have any)*

*Denise Clark-Jones, Pastor*

*"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." -- Matthew 7: 1-2*

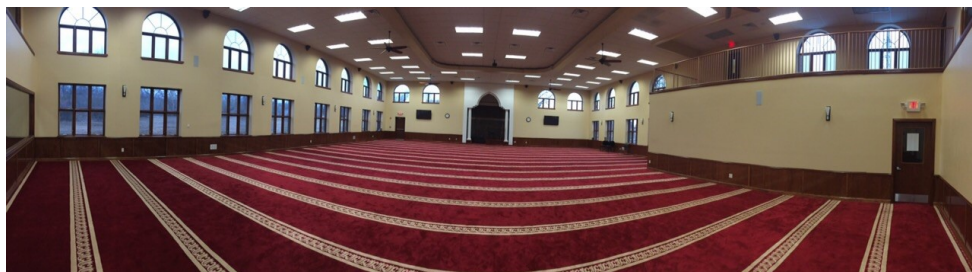
The fact is -- we love judgment. The Bible tells us 'let God be the judge -- God alone,' but we just cannot help ourselves. To take the "high ground" we like to justify our judgments with facts. Yet in our society today "facts" have become very suspicious. We even have a new moniker for baseless facts or outright lies -- "Alternative Facts." Yet, the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is the time we are asked to give up what is separating us from God and to take on spiritual disciplines that will bring us closer to God in preparation for our celebration of the Resurrection. One of those points of separation is our proclivity for judging and "otherizing" our sisters and brothers who appear different from us. A consequence of our, the racial majority, distancing ourselves from racial



*Continued on page 3 . . . .*

## **ISLAMIC CENTER VISIT AND TOUR**

*Ashley Foster, Westminster Member*



The workshop entitled *What Christians Should Know About Islam* that we hosted last fall here at Westminster was so successful that a Muslim gentlemen who attended invited those who were there to come to the Islamic Center of Peoria for a presentation and tour. About thirty members of Westminster went to visit the Center, and I think we all agreed that it was well worth it. Upon entering the building, we were directed to a room where the presentation and lunch would take place. There were tables set up that had a variety of literature on Islam that people could take home with them if they wished. Examples of these were pamphlets entitled, "Islam is NOT a religion of Extremism," "The Mercy of Allah (God)," "Misconceptions about Islam," and "Science in Islam." The information in these pamphlets, along with the thorough presentation given by Mohamed Salem was extremely interesting and helpful. Salem covered many topics, including the five pillars of Islam and the six articles of belief. He

*Continued on page 4 . . . .*

The **Window** Newsletter is a monthly publication of



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Director..... **Valerie Sager**  
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*in accordance with Peoria school calendar*  
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#### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

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Dick and Norma Helfrich, Pat Wagner,  
Monte and JoAnn Gibson, Alice Nash,  
Marilyn Luman, Adele Fleming and  
Peggy Carter.

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

**March 7 - 9:00 a.m.**

Westminster Presbyterian's Circle of Friends meets nine times a year on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. We meet in homes, at the church, and occasionally in public places. As we join in this time of fellowship, we bring things to the group that challenge our thinking and are of a spiritual nature.

Circle of Friends will meet Tuesday, March 7, at the home of Alice Nash, Host, at 2415 W. Calendar Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61606, and Co-Host Carol Borders. The guest speaker will be Katie Ehnle, a member of the Illinois Monarch Task Force. She will be presenting a program on "How to Establish a Monarch Habitat." Please RSVP. Everyone is welcome to attend. ✚

## BI-MONTHLY BIBLE CLASS

**March 9 & 23 - 1:30 p.m.**

*Marilyn Luman, Westminster Member*

On Thursday, March 9, our class will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor to continue our study of Isaiah. Pat Wagner will lead our discussion of Lesson 8 "Free at Last!" (Isaiah 25). As of this date we do not have a leader for March 23, but will meet at the Parlor at 1:30 p.m. to discuss Lesson 9 "Who Can You Trust?" (Isaiah 30:1-18). Call Pat or Marilyn if you have any questions. Remember to bring your Bible. We welcome anyone to join us! ✚

## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new church directory is available in the Narthex. If you are a regular attendee and unable to get to the church to get your copy, you may contact the church office to have one mailed out to you. wpc@westminsterpeoria.org ✚

## CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING CLEANING

**April 1 - 9:00 a.m.**

*Janet Kelley, Properties Committee*

On Saturday, April 1, at 9 a.m., the Properties Committee is hosting its annual spring clean-up day at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Come join the fun and fellowship and bring your gardening tools (rakes, weeders, blowers, clippers, etc.) and help make our church campus "shine"! Snacks and beverages will be provided. If it rains, the alternate date will be Saturday, April 8, same time and place. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, call Janet Kelley. ✚

## Shrove Tuesday

- The day before Lent begins is known as « Shrove Tuesday »
- It's more commonly called « Pancake Tuesday »
- In olden times, it was customary on this day to use up all the cooking fat and other goodies before Lent began
- It is known as « Mardi Gras » in some countries, which means « Fat Tuesday »!

The city of Peoria has held two group discussions on racial inequality in Peoria at the Civic Center, one in December and another in January. Each of these meetings brought in over 300 people. From these discussions, attendees have signed up for small group discussions. I signed up for the Education committee. Other groups include: Asset development (improving financial literacy, building savings, home ownership strategies), Workforce development (skills development, job placement, job advancement), Economic development (increasing opportunity through economic growth), Infrastructure, Justice (helping those who have been incarcerated), and Health (improving health outcomes correlated with high poverty).

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. has been discussing the issue of racial inequality for years. At the 2016 General Assembly Meeting, the following were documents presented and accepted by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly:

### 10-03 On Taking Specific Action to Address the Worsening Plight of the African-American Male

## 11-10 On Reconciliation and Engagement in a New Civil Rights Movement

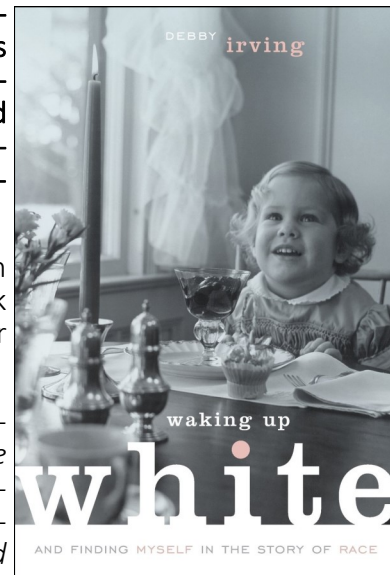
**11-12** On the PC(USA) Continuing Its Efforts to Dis-  
mantle Racism within Our Denomination and the Larger  
Society

## 11-22 Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community

## 11-24 Churchwide Conversation on Race, Ethnicity, Racism and Ethnocentricity Report

Within the P.C.U.S.A. there has been much discussion – articles, workshops, lectures – on understanding “White Privilege” in our society. At the February meeting of Great Rivers Presbytery, which Elder Jan Leonard and I attended, the moderator introduced us to a new book entitled: “Waking Up White: Finding Myself in the Story of Race” by Debbie Irving. Congregations throughout the P.C.U.S.A. have been encouraged to read and discuss this book to start conversations that will, hopefully, lead to positive actions.

I have ordered 10 books (\$11 each) to start. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who wish to purchase the book. Starting March 12, I will lead a book discussion, including other information on the topic at 9:00 am



The following information on the author and her book comes from her “author page” on Amazon.com.:

*"For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts*

*Continued on page 4 . . .*

**CANDIDATES FORUM 2017**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017 AT 7 PM  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL  
MOSS BRADLEY RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION SOCIAL AT 6:30 PM  
MAYOR • AT LARGE CITY COUNCIL • TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR  
PROVIDE YOUR QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE AT [MOSSBRADLEYNEWS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MOSSBRADLEYNEWS@GMAIL.COM)



also went into great detail about the readability of the Qur'an. He explained why many people find it so difficult to read. Translation issues are one of the problems. Arabic is very different from English. Unfamiliar structure is another problem people run into. The way that the sentences are structured is different from the English sentence structure that we are used to. In addition, the Qur'an provides answers to things you never asked, or thought to ask. It contains information that is not in the Bible, even though there are many similarities between it and the Bible. Salem ended his presentation with this quote from the Qur'an: "And you will find the nearest of them in affection to the believers those who say, 'We are Christians.'" This quote really hit home for me, personally. There may be a lot of differences between Islam and Christianity, but they are a lot alike too. It is important for Christians to have knowledge and respect for the Islamic religion, and vice versa. The presentation was accompanied by a delicious lunch. Salem also did a question and answer period following his presentation. He did his best to answer questions that people had. After he had answered everyone's questions, we were led to the prayer room. A group of about thirty Muslim men and young boys stood in line and preformed a prayer. A prayer leader stood in front of them and recited various chants. In between the chants, the men and boys changed positions. They either stood, sat, bowed, or kneeled. The prayer lasted about ten minutes, and it was very interesting to watch. After the prayer, we were given a tour of the rest of the facility by the President of the Center. We were shown the school, Daarul Uloom, which has about 170 students ranging from Pre K to 8th grade. The students there are taught the same curriculum as the private schools in Peoria. The overall facility was very nice. I think everyone who went enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. ✦

## Lenten Facts

- ♦ Lent lasts for 40 days
- ♦ Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 days as they are days of celebration
- ♦ Purple vestments are worn by the pastor during Lent.
- ♦ The Gloria and Alleluia are not sung at service during Lent

administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us.

*Debby Irving is an emerging voice in the national racial justice community. Combining her organization development skills, classroom teaching experience, and understanding of systemic racism, Irving educates and consults with individuals and organizations seeking to create racial equity at both the personal and institutional level.*

*Irving grew up in Winchester, Massachusetts, during the socially turbulent 1960s and '70s. After a blissfully sheltered, upper-middle-class suburban childhood, she found herself simultaneously intrigued and horrified by the racial divide she observed in nearby Boston. Her career began in a variety of urban performance-art and community-based non-profits, where she repeatedly found that her best efforts to "help" caused more harm than the good she intended. Her one-step-forward-two-steps-back experience of racial understanding eventually lead her to dig deeply into her own white privilege, where she found truths she never knew existed. *Waking Up White* describes that journey and the lessons learned along the way.*

*Now a racial justice educator and writer, Irving works with other white people to transform confusion into curiosity and anxiety into action. She's worked in private and public urban schools, both in the classroom and at the board level, to foster community among students, teachers, staff, and families by focusing on honest dialog that educates and connects people through shared interests and divergent backgrounds. A graduate of the Winsor School in Boston, she holds a BA from Kenyon College and an MBA from Simmons College. *Waking Up White* is her first book."*

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." --Galatians 3:28*

Blessings on your Lenten journey - Pastor Denise ✦

ANTARTICA APRIL LUNCH

April 23 - 11:00 a.m.

Dorothy Crozier, Church Life Elder

Please join us Sunday, April 23, immediately following the morning worship, for a celebration of Antarctica. We will have a tasty menu for any arctic appetite and a chilling presentation by Jeanie Olson of their trip to Antarctica that will be sure to warm our hearts. Our menu will be Normandy Scalloped Pork with Cider Cream and Apples, Mashed Potatoes with Sour Cream, Spring Peas with Butter, Green Salad with Strawber-ries, Grapes and White Balsamic Tarragon Dressing, Rolls and Assorted Cream Pies. We hope to see you there! Please sign up in the Narthex, call the office (673-8501) or email (wpc@westminsterpeoria.org) if you plan on attending. ✚

WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY

Elizabeth Richmond

During the month of January, the WestMark Food Pantry provided food to 1499 individuals. The partnership we have with St. Mark's Church cre-ates an amazing opportunity to help those who might otherwise be hungry. This makes for lots of work for our volunteers but it is great to help hungry, grateful folks. ✚

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Elizabeth Richmond

Come help unload deliveries: every first and third Tues-day, March 7 and 21, at 11:30 a.m. Then on Thurs-day, March 16, at 1:00 p.m., and also on the fourth Thurs-day of the month (March 23) at 11:00 a.m. We also can use some help filling in for our regular volun-teers on Monday morning. Questions? Call Elizabeth Richmond or the church office, 309-673-8501. ✚

CAN-A-THON SUNDAY


Peoria Area Anti-Hunger Coalition Food Share Can-A-Thon

March 19

Elizabeth Richmond

This year we will be helping collect canned goods for our WestMark Food Pantry as part of the Peoria County Canned Food Drive on March 19. Brown paper Can-A-Thon bags and donation envelopes will be available at the church Narthex starting on March 5. Please collect cans and encourage co-workers, neighbors, and friends to par-ticipate; even children and grandchildren can begin to learn the value in helping others. Return all bags to the church on Sunday, March 19. We will count our items and deliver them to our food pantry. If you would like to send a monetary gift, there are special offering envelopes in the Narthex or clip and mail the coupon below. Please mark the memo portion of your check: Can-A-Thon. ✚

**EGG-STER SPECIAL DELIVERY**  
*Elizabeth Richmond*  
The WestMark Food Pantry received an egg-ster special delivery from the Peoria Food Bank.  
Through the Peoria County Food Bank we received 75 cases of eggs at 15 dozen to a case, so 1, 125 dozen eggs or 13, 500 individual eggs, THAT is an EGG-straordinary number of eggs!  
Thanks to the egg-cellent helpers and for being egg-ster careful carrying in this delicate donation. This was a very light delivery compared to the frozen chickens they usu-ally have to lug in. Which does beg the questions; Which came first? The chicken or the eggs? ✚



let's **CAN**  
**HUNGER**

**FOOD SHARE CAN-A-THON**

☒ **YES! I want to CAN OUT HUNGER!**

Enclosed you will find my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clip and mail this form to:**

WPC CAN-A-THON  
1420 W. Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois 61606

**Fill a sack and bring to:**

Westminster Presb. Church  
1420 W. Moss Avenue  
on or before MARCH 19!

**Make checks payable to: Westminster Presb. Church**

**Write on memo line: CAN-A-THON**

**MARCH 19**



## IS YOUR HOUSE BURSTING OUT OF ITS SEAMS?

**Valerie Sager, WICC Director**

Spring is just around the corner so as you do your "Spring Cleaning," please remember WICC is holding its annual fundraiser this year on Saturday, June 10, during the Moss Avenue Day Sale. We have several drop-off dates coming up and hope you will help us out with our sale this year. We need donations of vintage, unique, and antique items. In addition, attic treasures, dishes, holiday, household items, jewelry, toys, books, puzzles, and other miscellaneous items are needed. We have planned three Saturday drop-off dates: March 25, April 29, and May 20, from 9:00 am to noon.

In addition, you may drop off your items during the week Thursdays, beginning March 9, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you need a different day during the week, please contact Pat Flynn, 309-253-7030 to make arrangements. ✦

## MISSIONS BY THE NUMBERS

**Elizabeth Richmond, Missions Committee**

**39** pairs of eye glasses and **3** hearing aids were donated to the Lions Club International. The Lions Club works both in the United States and world wide to get used glass and hearing aids to people in need.

**1** cell phone was donated to the Center for the Prevention of Abuse. Cell phones are given to victims of abuse to help keep them safe.

If you have any of these items you'd like to donate, just bring them with you to church. There is a box in the coatroom in which you can place your items.

Questions? See Elizabeth Richmond or call the office at 309-673-8501. ✦

## MBRA CANDIDATES FORUM

**Brian Buralli, MBRA Member**

Moss Bradley Residential Association will host a Candidates Forum on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall in the William O'Neill Parish House. This is a question and answer session of candidates for Mayor, at Large City Council and Peoria Township Supervisor. ✦



## HUNGRY BULLETIN

**Ashley Foster**

After a new president's term first begins, it is normal that more changes in policy take place during the course of the first six months than the rest of the time while he is in office. The new president of our country, Donald Trump, and Congress, have a new budget plan that they plan on implementing sometime during the first half of 2017. If this new plan is approved, there would be a negative impact on hungry people. Hunger is already such a huge problem in this country, so why try to make it worse?

Ever since the election took place last November, members of Bread for the World have been doing their best to reach out to the new president and the members of Congress, advocating that the SNAP program, which used to be referred to as food stamps, and the WIC nutrition program be "sustained and strengthened." Bread has pointed out multiple times that funding for these programs amounts to less than 1% of the federal budget. Obviously, this country can afford to spend much more on SNAP and WIC. David Beckmann, the president of Bread, stated that "families, churches, charities and businesses have an important role to play in helping hungry people. But we can only end hunger if our national government does its part." President Trump and the members of Congress need to realize that the budget for SNAP and WIC is far too low. It is completely illogical, in fact. This is a time where it is extremely important to hope and pray that this budget plan is not approved. ✦

## Lent

- « Lent » comes from the word « Lente » which means « Springtime »
- It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday
- We remember the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert
- It is a time of preparation for the holy season of Easter



## WICC BOOK CLUB DONATION



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**  
**Westminster Presb. Church**

**Write on memo line:**  
**WICC BOOK CLUB**

**Clip and mail this form to:**  
 WICC Book Club  
 Westminster Presb. Church  
 1420 W. Moss Avenue  
 Peoria, Illinois 61606

☐ **YES. I want to  
 give to reading!**

Enclosed you will find my donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_



### WICC BOOK CLUB Elizabeth Richmond, Missions Committee

The little ones are enjoying their new books. This will be an on going project so we hope to keep adding to these Book Boxes with contributions from you all. The WICC staff will also be working with the Moms in our program,

encouraging them to understand the importance of reading to their child. If you would like to help support this new project, please send a check to Westminster with "WICC Book Club" in the memo section. Another fun idea is if you have an upcoming birthday, you could ask your friends to give you Board Books instead of gifts, for you to donate to this project. If you have questions or need book ideas, please contact Elizabeth Richmond 309-673-8501 or WICC Director Valarie Sager 309-674-6701 ✦



### WICC BOOK CLUB REACHES THE EAST COAST

**Elizabeth Richmond,  
 Missions Committee**  
 Support for this new project has literally reached the East Coast! We have received a large box of brand new books,

from Macmillan Publishing, New York, from Holly Ruck, who works there. Holly is Jerrie Ruck's daughter. Westminster Infant Care Center thanks you for this wonderful donation of books. ✦

### WINDOW DEADLINE:

Do you have information that you would like to submit in the next newsletter to share with the congregation? Email to: [wpc@westminsterpeoria.org](mailto:wpc@westminsterpeoria.org) ✦

**Deadline for April WINDOW will be  
 Thursday, March 16, 2017.**



*Come  
 to the  
 Table*

## COMMUNION SERVICES

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 1, 7 PM

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 5, 10 AM

Sunday, March 5, 4 PM



Don't forget to...

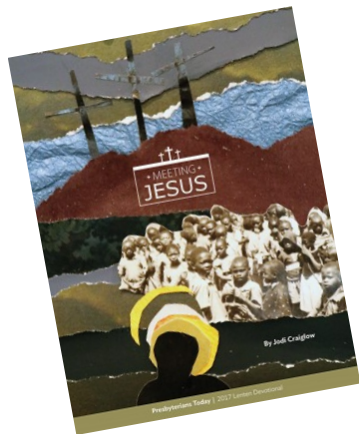
## SPRING FORWARD!

at 2 a.m. on March 12,  
 clocks will be forward-  
 ed one hour, marking  
 the beginning of  
 Daylight Saving Time.

## MEETING JESUS 2017 Lenten Devotional

By Jodi Craiglow

Art and Illustration by Creation Lab, Chicago



### Introduction

Just this side of a decade ago, I was introduced to first-person preaching. Goosebumps spread over me as I watched a preacher transform into King David, mourning the death of his son Absalom. From that moment on, I was hooked.

Before seminary, I was an English teacher - so I've learned never to underestimate the power of a good story. Well-crafted narratives have the ability to draw us in. They invite us to live alongside the characters we're reading (or hearing) about, experiencing life through their eyes. The idea of writing this year's Lenten devotional from the point of view of people who encountered Jesus was too good to resist. I won't lie; it's been one of my most challenging undertakings. Entering into the psyches of 47 unique people and telling Jesus' story from their perspectives has been no simple task. But it's also been one of the most rewarding challenges I've undertaken. I've begun to understand Jesus in a newer, richer way.

So I invite you to join me on a journey. Come meet the people who met Jesus. Hear about what they learned - and what they didn't. share their joys and their struggles, and I pray that you too will start to understand Jesus in a newer, richer way.

Pick up your copy in the Narthex while supplies last. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter.

Lent is a time when we prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.



## GET TO KNOW THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Information taken from the [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) website.



*Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.*

God comes to us in free and undeserved favor in the person of Jesus Christ who lived, died, and rose for us that we might belong to God and serve Christ in the world. Following Jesus, Presbyterians are engaged in the world and in seeking thoughtful solutions to the challenges of our time.

Presbyterians affirm that God comes to us with grace and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose for us so that we might have eternal and abundant life in him. As Christ's disciples, called to ministry in his name, we seek to continue his mission of teaching the truth, feeding the hungry, healing the broken, and welcoming strangers. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, giving us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be Christ's faithful disciples in the world.

More than two million people call the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) their spiritual home. Worshiping in 10,000 Presbyterian congregations throughout the United States, they engage the communities in which they live and serve with God's love.

You can continue to read more at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

### Excerpt added by Pastor Denise:

The Book of Order of the PC(USA) describes an active member as one who:

*"makes a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, and is received into the body by an act of Session. As a community of faith, the Church entrusts its life to God and works at becoming a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation." The Church is "a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord." (F-1.0301)*

This season of Lent is a most appropriate time to examine ourselves as members of the Church - how actively and sincerely we are working and witnessing as the body of Christ in the world and as members of Westminster in the Peoria Community. With five new members joining Westminster on Sunday, February 26, we have the joy and the opportunity to welcome, engage, and support our newest members. We are the Church - thanks be to God! ✚





# SESSION NOTES

## From the February 14 Session Meeting

Brian Hakes, Clerk of Session



- ♦ Westminster received thank you letters acknowledging our mission gifts from:
  - Church World Blankets Program
  - Friendship House, a gift of \$900.
  - Dream Center Peoria, a gift of \$3,000.
  - Received a thank you letter from the Center for the Prevention of Abuse for a mission gift of \$900.
- ♦ The PGR Assembly will now meet 4 times a year, twice in Washington and twice at other sites.
- ♦ The Presbytery announced that the Mission Initiative grants are now capped at \$5,000.
- ♦ Rev. Clark-Jones said she sent a letter to the Peoria City manager to offer the Parish Hall as a meeting place for any of the committees the city has organized for the initiative on improving race relations.
- ♦ The expenditures for the annual congregational luncheon were \$535.
- ♦ Elder Crozier plans to trade two meat slicers for extra large sauce pans at Pasquels.
- ♦ The church has received a gift of \$5,000 from the estate of Alicia Verhake.
- ♦ The session approved Patricia Hight and Sara (Mitchell) Flannery be removed from the rolls.
- ♦ The food pantry served 1,499 in January.
- ♦ From the food pantry, 12 cases of surplus raisins were delivered to Roosevelt school.
- ♦ Radon testing of the church basement will be done in February at a cost of \$600. This is required every 3 years.
- ♦ Roosevelt School will become a Westminster mission.
- ♦ The session approved a motion made to combine employee sick and personal time and include an annual buy-back of the unused personal time.
- ♦ Custodian Pat Flynn is coordinating work on the sewage pumps located in the basement of the church.
- ♦ The properties committee met with the landscape architect who presented 3 options to improving the entrance to church property.
- ♦ Bids are being gathered for converting the storage space in Fellowship Hall into a handicap bathroom.
- ♦ The session approved the motion that the communion count be discontinued.

Respectfully,

Brian Hakes - Clerk ♦

## WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session .....	Brian Hakes Class of 2018
Christian Education .....	Bonnie Jackson Class of 2019
Church Life .....	Dorothy Crozier Class of 2019
Finance .....	Gary Leonard Class of 2019
Membership .....	Carol Carlson Class of 2017
Missions/Outreach .....	Jan Leonard Class of 2019
Personnel .....	Oliver Woodman Class of 2019
Properties .....	Don Bell Class of 2018
Worship .....	Suellen Kirkwood Class of 2017

**SESSION MEETS ON THE  
THIRD TUESDAY, MONTHLY,  
12:00 PM, IN THE PARLOR!**

## DEACONS

Moderator .....	Jeanie Olson Class of 2019
Anna Bussian .....	Class of 2017
Sue Burnham .....	Class of 2017
Mary Dill .....	Class of 2018
Kim Mitchell .....	Class of 2019
Alice Nash .....	Class of 2019
Edna Nugent .....	Class of 2019
Phyllis Rafferty .....	Class of 2017
Marge Willadsen .....	Class of 2017



*Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. Isaiah calls us to “loose the bonds of injustice,” to “let the oppressed go free,” to “share bread with the hungry” and to “invite the homeless poor into our homes.” We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down. One way we answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.*

## 2017 One Great Hour of Sharing Minute for Mission – “Is this not the fast I choose?”

### “Is this not the fast I choose?”

One Great Hour of Sharing helps us answer God’s call.

The Christian season of Lent is historically marked with fasting, a traditional practice of giving up food and devoting yourself to prayer.

But this isn’t the only type of fasting the Bible talks about. Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. Isaiah calls us to “loose the bonds of injustice,” to “let the oppressed go free,” to “share bread with the hungry” and to “invite the homeless poor into our homes.” We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down. One way we answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Our gifts to this Offering helped “loose the bonds of injustice” for Olga Pedraza and others like her who received support in accessing a job after a prison sentence and beating drug addiction. Self-Development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. By investing in those like Olga who have reformed their lives after prison, we help reduce the number of people who end up back in prison.

Our gifts helped alpaca farmers in Peru whose livelihoods were threatened by the poisoning of their water sources. What began as an apparent need for assistance with irrigation grew into a partnership between these farmers and the Presbyterian Hunger Program to support a host of environmental initiatives. Environmental degradation and climate change are primary threats to the world’s hungry and vulnerable, and the Hunger Program’s work is part of our response.

Gifts to the Offering also rebuilt 40 apartments and houses destroyed during the Syrian civil war, so that those made homeless by its violence could return to a home of their own. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

has provided essential support to refugees throughout this crisis, including education for refugee children, emergency supplies for refugees journeying to new lands, and assistance for US congregations receiving refugees into their communities.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing will do much more than these few examples. They will join congregations all over the country as we seek to answer God’s call and make a difference in the lives of many more people. As we respond through our sharing, Isaiah 58 also provides a promise. As we respond to injustice, feed those who are hungry, and provide places for those without homes, our “light will break forth,” and we shall be called “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in.”

Please give generously.

*Let us Pray: God, your call to us is both great and challenging. May the gifts we share bring justice and help to those in need, and may your light break forth in our lives and in the lives of those served through our shared ministry. Amen.*

*Look for offering envelopes in your Sunday bulletin and in the Narthex. ✦*

## One great hour of sharing

March 1 - April 16



GRETCHEN R IBEN ARTS SERIES PRESENTS...

An Evening of Bach and Handel

April 7 - 7:30 PM

Tom Clark-Jones, IBEN Chair

On Friday evening, April 7, the Iben Series is excited to present a program of Klavier (Keyboard) Concertos from the hand of Johann Sebastian Bach. The indication that these are for a “klavier” means that they can be played on any keyboard instrument that has the compass to accommodate them. For this concert, we will use two pianos. No doubt Bach’s original idea was that they would be played on the harpsichord. Bach had heard an early version of the piano and did not like it one bit! However, over the years when harpsichords were not commonly available, musicians took to playing these works on the piano, and, of course, they sound absolutely wonderful.



Dr. Chee Hyeon Choi

Joining us for this concert are two distinguished members of the Bradley University faculty of music ... Dr. John Orfe and Dr. Chee Hyeon Choi. Both of these fine musicians have distinguished themselves in Peoria musical circles with their superb playing. Last year they provided the music for our presentation of “The Carnival of the Animals”.

Each of our guest artists will play a solo concerto. Then they will come together to play two concertos for two pianos. There is nothing quite like the sonority of two fine pianos playing together. It gives the idea of piano music a whole new dimension.



Dr. John Orfe

Joining Doctors Orfe and Choi will be a festival orchestra drawn from the ranks of professional musicians across Central Illinois. This small string ensemble will be led by Thomas Clark-Jones and give the accompanimental boost these works demand.

This is truly an aggregation of wonderful musicians and soloists, and it is sure to be a refreshing way to spend a Friday evening in early April. Remember ... the date is April 7 and the time is 7:30 p.m. Plan to come and bring a friend or two. This should truly be a memorable evening! Admission is free and there will be an offering plate at the door as concertgoers leave to allow our guests to be a part of the support of our series. ✦

The coupon entitles bearer to

**UNLIMITED  
FREE HUGS**

Redeemable anytime

It can be vital for your emotional well being. Everybody feels skin hunger throughout their lives, and unless that hunger is satisfied by touching, there’s a vital void in the emotional makeup that’s going to cause deep unhappiness. We all know that babies thrive on frequent stroking. Well, adults are not different. When they’re not patted on the hand or embraced around the shoulder or hugged, they withdraw into themselves. I prescribe four hugs a day for survival, eight for maintenance and twelve for growth. ✦

WEBSITE DIRECTORY

The church directory is now on the Westminster website. The names, address, phone numbers, and email addresses of all the members have been entered. We will also be working on adding birthdays, anniversaries, and the name of each member’s deacon to all of the profiles. In order to gain access to the website directory, you will need to have a password. To obtain a password, email the church office: [wpc@westminsterpeoria.org](mailto:wpc@westminsterpeoria.org). ✦

S	L	E	G	N	A	L	O	N	E
T	S	D	E	T	P	M	E	T	W
E	Y	E	A	X	F	A	O	L	I
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A	H	S	R	R	R	V	Y	E	I
R	R	U	E	O	E	B	R	V	H
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**WILDERNESS  
TEMPTED  
DEVIL  
FORTY  
STONE  
BREAD  
ALONE  
GLORY  
WORSHIP  
PARAPET  
ANGELS  
EXHAUSTED**



# ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN SEARCHING FOR JUSTICE IN ISRAEL & PALESTINE

A DELEGATION OF NORTH AMERICANS, JULY 14-23, 2017



*Kairos Palestine invites you to "Come and see."*

## PRELIMINARY ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

**July 14** Individual departures from North America.

**July 15** Arrive in **Tel Aviv** and transfer to **Jerusalem** for on-site, group orientation.

**July 16-17 Jerusalem:** Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum; Deir Yassin; B'Tselem; Association for Civil Rights in Israel; Zochrot & Canada Park; Sociologist, Dr. Bernard Sabella; Yusef Daher, Executive Secretary, Jerusalem Inter-Church Center; Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions; Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque; Western Wall; Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Resurrection; Prof. Mustafa Abusway, Al Quds University; and Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center.

**July 18-20 Bethlehem & Hebron:** Church of the Nativity; Mosque of Omar; Bethlehem University; Hind Khoury, Kairos Palestine; Mitri Raheb; Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem; Bethlehem University; Hebron's Old City; Christian Peacemaker Teams; Ibrahimi Mosque; Tent of Nations; and Dabkeh Dancing.

**July 21-22 Bethlehem & Ramallah:** Mazin Qumsiyeh; Palestine Museum of Natural History; Aida Refugee Camp; Seraj Children's Library; a member of the Palestine Legislative Council; Al Mukata'a; Al Haq; Human Rights in Palestine; Mustafa Barghouti; Palestinian Center for Human Rights; Sam Bahour; Addameer: Prisoner Support and Human Rights; Omar Barghouti; Dr. Estephan Salameh; and Military Court Watch.

**July 23** Very early morning flight departures.

## PURPOSE

This journey will introduce delegates to Palestinian and Israeli Jews, Muslims, Christians and secularists who are working for inclusive justice and genuine peace. What's going on? And what can be done to help move the situation toward an inclusive and just peace? Delegates will gain experience and understanding that equips them to return to their homes to work nonviolently for peace, justice, human rights and international law in Israel, Palestine, at home, and throughout the world.

## 10-Day Tour: July 14-23, 2017

\$1540/person: 20 participants

\$1740/person: 16 participants

\$2040/person: 12 Participants

For a single-occupancy room, add \$320.

## EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: *Oh, YES!*

Register and pay the deposit of \$500 by February 17, 2017 and receive \$100 off the price of the tour.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** \*Accommodations in convents, guesthouses or tourist-class hotels \*All ground transportation \*All meals \*All entrance fees, service charges and local taxes and \*One group transfer to and from the airport \*Background information \*Tips for hotel staff, guides and drivers \*Licensed guides fluent in English, Arabic and Hebrew \*Honoraria for speakers and organizations.

**PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:** \*Airfare \*Personal expenses \*Travel insurance and \*Passport.

## CO-SPONSORS

Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)

Middle East Task Force (PCUSA)

Seraj Children's Library Project (Palestine)

Siraj Center for Holy Land Study (Palestine)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CO-LEADERS

Dr. Anne Parker Fortin, Laval University, Quebec (retired)  
[Anne.Fortin@fts.ulaval.ca](mailto:Anne.Fortin@fts.ulaval.ca)

Prof. Inam Haq, Elmhurst College and Catholic Theological Union, [haqlombard@yahoo.com](mailto:haqlombard@yahoo.com); 630-617-3485

Dr. Paul Parker, Elmhurst College  
[paulp@elmhurst.edu](mailto:paulp@elmhurst.edu); 630-617-3559



# MARCH SERVANT SCHEUDLE

SERVICES	USHERS	GREETERS	SOUND	LITURGIST	ACOLYTE	COFFEE HOUR
<b>1 WED ASH WENESDAY</b>	Brooks McDaniel Linda McDaniel Suellen Kirkwood	Dick Helfrich	Alan Willadsen	Joyce Hakes	Suellen Kirkwood	
<b>5 SUN AM</b>	Kim Mitchell. Anna Bussian Horst Prohaska Alice Nash	Suellen Kirkwood	Marcus Foster	John Jackson	Kim Mitchell	Jack Allen
<b>5 SUN JAZZ</b>	Marge Willadsen Alan Willadsen	Suellen Kirkwood	Don Bell	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood	
<b>12 SUN AM</b>	Gary Dutro Alan Kupper Linda Kupper Marge Willadsen	Dick Helfrich	Patrick Flynn	Dave Carlson	Alan Kupper	Dorothy Crozier
<b>12 SUN JAZZ</b>	Marcus Foster Ashley Foster	Suellen Kirkwood	Tom Clark-Jones	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood	
<b>19 SUN AM</b>	Jeff Case Diane Case Gary Dutro Laura Van Riper	Dick Helfrich	Patrick Flynn	Anna Bussian	Diane Case	Marge Willadsen
<b>19 SUN JAZZ</b>	Alice Nash Conrad Stinnett	Suellen Kirkwood	Alan Willadsen	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood	
<b>26 SUN AM</b>	Gary Leonard Jan Leonard Dan Callahan Janet Kelley	Dick Helfrich	Patrick Flynn	Diane Case	Gary Leonard	4th Sunday Luncheon
<b>26 SUN JAZZ</b>	John Jackson Brooks McDaniel	Suellen Kirkwood	Alan Kupper	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood	

*If you are unable to work on your scheduled date, please try to find your replacement or switch with someone, before contacting the Ministry Elder of the changes.*



## ASH WEDNESDAY / MARCH 1

Bread Joyce Hakes  
Wine Brian Hakes  
Bread Brooks McDaniel  
Wine Pastor Denise  
Traveler Suellen Kirkwood



## MORNING WORSHIP / MARCH 5

Bread Diane Case  
Wine Jeff Case  
Bread Janet Kelley  
Wine Pastor Denise  
Traveler Kim Mitchell





## JAZZ VESPERS / MARCH 5

Bread Tom Clark-Jones  
Wine Pastor Denise  
Bread Suellen Kirkwood  
Wine Dick Helfrich  
Traveler Alan Willadsen

February 2017						
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26	27	28				

April 2017						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

# MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5 COMMUNION</b> 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Jazz Vespers	<b>6</b> 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>7</b> 9:00am Circle of Friends 11:30am Food Delivery	<b>1 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting 7pm MBRA Meeting 7pm Ash Wednesday Service 	<b>2</b> 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>12 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Jazz Vespers	<b>13</b> 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>14</b> 4:30pm WICC Board Mtg	<b>8</b> 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 1:30pm BiMonthly B-Study 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>19 CAN-A-THON</b> 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Jazz Vespers	<b>20</b> 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>21</b> 11:30am Food Delivery 12:00pm Session Mtg	<b>22</b> 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> 11am Food Delivery 1:30pm BiMonthly B-Study 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00am Luncheon Set-Up
<b>26</b> 10am Worship 11am 4th Sunday Lunch 4pm Jazz Vespers	<b>27</b> 9-11am WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>28</b> Committee on Missions Meeting. Pastor will be out of the office today.	<b>29</b> 7:30am Men's Coffee Hr. 10am Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	<b>31</b>	<b>APRIL 1</b> 



**Bible Crossword X**

**Across**

1 Donkey (3)  
2 Jesus' Father (3)  
4 One of the twelve (9)

8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)  
12 One of David's warriors (5)  
13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)  
14 New Testament name for Noah (3)  
15 Wish harm upon (5)  
16 Hole in the ground (3)  
17 Adversary (5)  
18 Saviour (5)  
19 First woman (3)  
20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)  
21 Family of priests (9)  
22 Third son of Jacob (4)  
23 Hates (8)  
26 Assurances (8)  
30 Endured pain (8)  
31 Return from the dead (4)  
32 Intercessor (8)  
35 Decorating (8)  
39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)  
40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)  
42 A wise insect (3)  
44 Dwelling place of kings (6)  
45 Make bigger (8)

**Down**

1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)  
3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)  
4 Tread down (7)  
5 Father of Jonah (7)  
6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)  
7 Defensive structures (11)  
8 Refuges (11)  
9 Dirty (7)  
10 Devout (7)  
11 Pieces of money (7)  
24 Used to listen (3)  
25 Used to see (3)  
26 Positions (5)  
27 Made available (7)  
28 Snake (7)  
29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)  
33 Finish (3)  
34 Possess (3)  
35 King of the Amalekites (4)  
36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)  
37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)  
38 Present (4)  
41 Unfasten (4)  
43 Fish traps (4)

<http://biblepuzzles.org.uk>



- 1 Shawn Cullen
- 12 Jeff Putnam
- 13 John McLean
- 17 Sharon Byrkit
- 21 Doc Hammond
- 21 Charles Allen
- 23 Robert Fisher
- 28 Robert Oaks
- 31 Norma Helfrich



- 12 Jill & Don Bell
- 30 Sharon & David Byrkit

## Jesus Facts

Serving Size 1 Cup

Amount Per Serving

**Calories 0**

%Daily Value*			
Love	100%	Gentleness	100%
Joy	100%	Self Control	100%
Peace	100%	Mercy	100%
Patience	100%	Grace	100%
Kindness	100%	Forgiveness	100%
Goodness	100%	Restoration	100%
Faithfulness	100%	Hope	100%

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. – Psalm 73:25-26

**Please Print**



Help decorate the Sanctuary by dedicating an Easter lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$16. Please return this form to the office or place it in the collection plate by **Sunday, April 9**. After Easter worship, plants may be taken home and replant-

Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16 for each lily

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In ☐ Honor ☐ Memory of (check one):

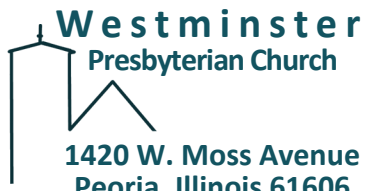
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: WPC Lilies, 1420 W. Moss Ave., Peoria, IL 61606

☐ Deliver to a shut-in.

## EASTER LILY DEDICATION



**Westminster**  
Presbyterian Church

1420 W. Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois 61606

309.673.8501 Office  
wpc@westminsterpeoria.org  
www.westminsterpeoria.org

**JOIN US SUNDAYS**

10 AM Traditional Worship  
4 PM Jazz Vespers Service  
With David Hoffman  
and Friends



Our mission is to *Serve God and  
Others with Open Mind, Open  
Hands and Open Heart.*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Peoria, IL  
Permit No. 792

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Deliver to our Friends at

# Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday**  
**March 1, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**



REMEMBER  
THAT YOU ARE DUST  
AND TO DUST YOU  
SHALL RETURN

**GENESIS 3:19**

*Brief service of worship and imposition of ashes.  
All are welcome to begin a Holy Lent Together.*