

**APRIL  
2018**

*The Westminster*  
**WINDOW**

**Issue 4  
Volume 16**

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

**LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY  
READINGS FOR APRIL**

**04/01 - EASTER**

**Resurrection of the Lord**

Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

**04/08 - 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

**04/15 - 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

**04/22 - 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

**04/29 - 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

**Year B Schedule Readings**



**LIKE TO READ? . . .  
WE HAVE BOOKS!**

*Jan Leonard*

As most of you know, the Parish House is being cleaned out for occupancy by an entity who wants to partner with Westminster in an effort consistent with our church's current mission

efforts. Great work has been done to accomplish this very large task.

You may be seeing Westminster history on tables in the Narthex of the Sanctuary building for your review and taking. We have so many copies of historical documents, but please rest assured that our history is being very well preserved and will stay at the church.

One of the tasks that still needs to be undertaken is cleaning out of some of the library's contents. Many books will remain at Westminster, but some can be taken by members.



Jan Leonard & Janet Kelley  
sorting old photographs.

If you are interested in looking through the many books available to members, an opportunity for that will be during and after the fifth Sunday luncheon in April. You can also check with the office to come over during the week after that luncheon through the middle of May. If you decide to take a book or more, you can make a donation to the church if you wish, but it's not necessary.



Your Parish House Committee will keep you updated. Stay tuned, Jan Leonard, Parish House Committee Chair ✝



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Fax ..... 309-673-2840  
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Email ..... wpc@westminsterpeoria.org  
Office Hours ..... Monday - Friday 8:30 to 2:30 PM

#### STAFF

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Email ..... music@westminsterpeoria.org

#### ON-SITE MISSIONS

**WestMark Food Pantry** ..... **Elizabeth Richmond**  
Phone ..... 309-673-8501 Ext. 7  
Hours ..... Weekly Monday 9 to 11 AM  
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**Westminster Infant Care Center**  
Director ..... **Valerie Sager**  
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Hours ..... Monday-Friday 6:30 to 3 PM  
*in accordance with Peoria school calendar*  
Email ..... WICC1973@gmail.com

#### THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

##### Editing/Proofing

Peggy Carter

##### Collating/Securing

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

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

*Peggy Carter*

The Circle of Friends will meet Tuesday, April 3, at 9 a.m. at the home of Peggy Carter. Our theme will be Signs of Spring. Members will be asked to share a childhood memory of spring, and Peggy will share poems by Mary Oliver.

Any questions, call Peggy. All are welcome to join us and bring a friend. Please RSVP to Peggy Carter.

If you haven't signed up to host a month, please get in touch with Anna Bussian, who has the available months yet to be filled. †

## LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

*Marilyn Luman*

Join us on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons as Pastor Denise guides us through the scriptures for the following Sunday. (This usually follows the Lectionary readings in the Presbyterian Planning Calendar.) Scriptures for the following month are also listed above, month to month. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship while growing deeper in the Word. The study begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Questions? Contact Marilyn Luman.

We will meet Thursday, April 12 and April 26. †

## MEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Come and join us for a good cup of joe and good conversation. We meet at Panera Bread, 2515 N. Westlake, weekly on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Invite a friend. It is always a good time and there is always room for more. †

## FINANCE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 18, at 12 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Chapel. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please let Gary Leonard know or contact the church office at 673-8501. †

## **SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY**

*Janet Kelley*

The Properties Committee is once again hosting its annual spring clean-up day starting at 9 a.m., on Saturday, April 28, with an alternate rain date on Saturday, May 5. Please bring your gardening tools: rakes, hoes, weeders, blowers, shovels, gloves, and anything else you can think of and come join the fun while getting some great exercise! We really can't do it without you! Even if you are only available for an hour, we'd love to see you there!

Refreshments and beverages will be available. Have any questions? Call Janet Kelley. ☙

## **TRAVEL THE WORLD**

Travel along with Jeanie & Bill Olson. Visit their blog at: [olsonwwcruise.com](http://olsonwwcruise.com) and read all about the fun things they are doing or leave them a message.

### **Entry from March 12, Dubai**

*We did not dock at Port Rashid until 10AM. We met for our tour at 10:15. AM. Immigration collected our passports and returned them to guest services. We will*



*see them again after March 26. Our tour guide's name was Nedeena and the bus driver's name was Hussein.*

*People came to Abu Dhabi from Saudi Arabia in 100 AD for fishing, trading and agriculture. Arab historians men-*

*tion the area with a date of 1095. In the 1500s the Phoenicians were here. The British were invited in in 1892 to help stop the advance of the Ottoman empire. The people in this area have the same classic Arabic culture. Th Arabian uniform is much the same except for the color of the men's headbands. In the UAE the color is black. In Saudi Arabia the headband is red. The men's outer wear is white. Women wear the black outer garment or abaya but underneath they may have very mod-*

*ern stylish outfits and lots of jewelry. Women are not required to cover their faces in Dubai, only their hair.*

*The city we saw is very new—built since the discovery of oil in 1971. That discovery brought incredible riches to the area. Dubai is a global city and a hub of the area. The sheiks have built incredible buildings and the city is very clean. The roads are wide and smooth. Traffic moves well. There are lots of cars. There were petunias growing along side most of the roads we traveled. In this area of only 3 inches of rain a year, the flowers must be irrigated and when we got off the bus we saw the drip system in use. The water here is desalinated water. The buildings are one and two stories high made of a beige concrete looking material. There are palm trees along the road. The Persian Gulf is a lovely greenish blue. Then there are some very large unique buildings, such as the Burj Al Arab hotel built to look like a sail. It is 321 meters tall (963 Feet), or the Burj Kalifa at 2,680 feet tall. This is the city with communities built on islands. One is in the shape of a palm tree. Each palm frond forms a marina area for the resident. Another is shaped like the world. I think we were told the palm island is sold out but the world island has available lots. There is just one hitch I do not understand. Only Emiratians can own property. I think all those celebrity owners must just have leases.*

*Continued on page 5 . . . .*





## SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS

*Jan Leonard*

### Center for Preventions of Abuse

The mission of the Center for Prevention of Abuse is to “help all people – men, women and children – live free from violence and abuse.”

During fiscal year 2017, the Center provided:

- 4,391 safe nights in shelter for individuals and families fleeing abuse
- 2,117 Orders of Protection to keep abusers away from their victims
- 14,064 hours of service to 2,522 seniors and adults with disabilities who were abused, neglected, or financially exploited
- 1,135 staff and volunteer visits to nursing homes to check on the well-being of residents
- 432 children and adults healing from the trauma of sexual abuse through therapy services
- The opportunity for 175 men and women to attend the 26 week Family Violence Intervention Program to learn about violence-free relationships
- Continuation of the “A Million Ways to Prevent Abuse” campaign, which has helped provide 4,850 teaching sessions in local schools, resulting in 67,071 contacts with students and teachers. Programs focused on body safety, bullying prevention, and healthy relationship skills.

The Center continues to be one of the missions to which Westminster contributes. The Center truly opens doors and changes lives. ✚

## MOSS AVENUE - WICC SALE

*Elizabeth Richmond*

Westminster Infant Care Center will once again be participating in the Moss Avenue Sale on June 9, and we need your help! Please consider donating items that we can sell at the Moss Avenue Sale. Antiques, collectibles, furniture, books, tools, household items, and almost anything you think someone might buy are great things to donate. We are not taking linens, televisions, old computers, or other electronics that are difficult to get rid of.

Donation drop off dates are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon on April 21, May 5, May 19, and the last drop off date is June 2. If you have a

*Continued on page 6 . . .*



## WESTMARK FOOD PANTRY

*Elizabeth Richmond*

During the month of **February** we provided food to **1,071** individuals. The partnership we have with St Mark's Church creates an amazing opportunity to help those that might otherwise be hungry. This makes for lots of work for our volunteers but it is great to help hungry, grateful folks.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

*Elizabeth Richmond*

Come help unload deliveries; every first and third Tuesday, **April 3 and April 17**, at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, **April 12**, at 1 p.m., and Thursday, **April 26**, at 11 a.m. We also can use some help filling in for our regular volunteers on Monday morning. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Richmond or the church office.

## MISSIONS BY THE NUMBERS

Westminster is still collecting old glasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. If you have any of these that you no longer use, please consider donating them to the church. Westminster works with other organizations that help people in need get glasses or hearing aids both in the United States and worldwide. Please put them in the marked baskets found in the coatroom. We thank you for your help.

Our first stop was a photo shoot of the Jumeirah Mosque built in 1975. . It is built in the Egyptian style and supposedly open to the public. The large dome provides air circulation. The minarets were used by the priests to call people to prayer five times a day. The priests do not climb up in them now, they use loud speakers. The prayer times are between sunrise and sunset and so they are not at the same time everyday. The Person must wash the face and the feet, face Mecca and do some physical movement, such as kneeling and putting the forehead to the ground. The person can do this anywhere, but on Friday they are supposed to come to the mosque. There are some 5000 mosques in the UAE with 800 of them in Dubai. We saw lots of them as we drove along. Some are quite small.

The Sheiks built houses for the Emiratis in the 70s. Housing for the expats, the workers, is provided by the owners of the construction companies. A worker is under a two-year contract. The passport is taken away. At the end of the contract, the worker can get it back and go home or sign a new contract. We were told there is no homeless problem in Dubai.

Our next photo stop was the Al Arab Hotel. I have pictures of it. You have to have a reservation to go in and there is a security guard at the gate. There is a water park beside it. One of our passengers bought a reservation for high tea. She said it was fabulous but she has not told me much else. We were told the interior décor is lavish, the rooms are suites, each with its own private butler. This is certainly not my cup of tea.

There is a creek here that runs inland for 8 miles. We crossed under it to get to the old part of town—the Al Bastakiya quarter where the Persian traders lived before 2,000. It is now a heritage area. We went into the area and walked through some of it. Houses have just one opening onto the street, the house is built around a court yard. You enter the door into a parlor sort of room and then pass into the court yard. Rooms are on all sides, including the kitchen and sitting rooms. Bedrooms are on the second floor. The house we entered had a family meal spread out on a long runner down the

middle of the area and cushions all around. There were folks sitting there. These homes have a wind tower which is a large open tower that provides cooling circulation to the home. There are walkways connecting the various homes. The homes housed huge families. The sons stayed in the home. Daughters moved to the husband's home. There were 55 of these homes. The area is being turned into a cultural center with museums and shops and restaurants.

Education is free for the Emirati but Expats have to pay. The same is true for health.

This is called the gold city. Gold is actually purchased elsewhere but there are many skilled workers here fashioning it into lovely pieces. I was tired by the time we got to the Gold Souk. There was no place close for the bus to park. Folks were given half an hour to find the Souk and run through however many of the 300 shops there they could manage. Bill and I stayed on the bus.

We were hot and tired when we got back to the ship. The after dinner show was called “Arabic Folklore Show.” There were three ladies doing some dances and a guy doing some stuff. I guess it was okay except the scantily dressed women did not match the heavily clothed ladies we saw on the streets. The dances were sort of belly dances.

Tuesday March 13, 2018. We were in Dubai a second day. It was the end of a segment and 109 people got off and 109 people joined us for the next segment. Many passengers took more tours into the desert; or, to visit more of the buildings or the souks. Bill and I decided to walk through the terminal where there were some shops. I got some post cards and enjoyed seeing what was for sale. Bill just sat in the terminal while I did my thing. That was enough for us. We didn't even go to the after dinner show.

†

need to drop off donation items sooner or on a different date, please let us know. In addition to the Saturdays listed, you may drop off your items during the week on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please contact Steve Sager (309-224-6237) for help unloading and also if you need a different day during the week for drop off. Thanks, Westminster Infant Care Center Sale Committee Elizabeth Richmond, Jill Bell, Marilyn Luman, Suellen Kirkwood, and Valerie Sager, WICC Director. Thank you for supporting the Westminster Infant Care Center! ✚

## **2018 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

*Gary Leonard*

Every member shares in the benefit of the system of Government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). All of the approximate 10,000 Presbyterian congregations within the PC(USA) are asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating the functions of that system. As a result, each church is apportioned a share (based on membership) of the expenses incurred by the three higher governing bodies of the PC (USA). For 2018 this apportionment is \$32 per member (unchanged from 2017).

**I encourage each member to consider a \$32 contribution as your share of Westminster's 2018 "per capita" payment in support of these judicatories (The Presbytery of Great Rivers, The Synod of Lincoln Trails, and The General Assembly).** By contributing your share of our "per capita" expense, Westminster avoids using funds that are received from regular offerings for this support of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As the previous Finance Chair, Jeanie Olson, wrote in a "Per Capita" letter sent to members in 2015, *"The Per Capita is what keeps the gears running in our connectional church."*

A designated envelope for the "per capita" contri-

bution can be found in your box of offering envelopes. If you do not have this envelope, merely indicate "per capita" on your contribution (payable to: "Westminster Presbyterian Church" or just "WPC"). Another option for members is to contribute directly from WPC's website, [wesminsterpeoria.org](http://wesminsterpeoria.org). On the website, just go to the "Support" page and click on **"Westminster's donation portal"**. Then, from the "To" dropdown box, select "Per Capita". Contact Denise Wirth at (309) 439-9740, whenever you have any question related to making a contribution of any kind to the church.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration of this request. Through March 15, six members have contributed their share of the 2018 apportionment. If you would like additional information about the history and purpose of this "per capita" apportionment, I encourage you to visit the website of the General Assembly at the following address: (<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita/>). ✚

## **GYMANFA GANU**

Gretchen R. Iben Arts Series

*Tom Clark-Jones*

On Sunday afternoon, April 22, at four o'clock, we will have a Gymanfa Ganu ... a Welsh Hymn Sing ... just like it happens in chapels and churches all over Wales on a regular basis. Well ... with the exception that we will sing those glorious hymns in English rather than Welsh ... mostly!

Our conductor for the Gymanfa is Mari Morgan, a native of Llanelli, South Wales, and internationally recognized as a conductor of such events. She has led the North American Gymanfa Ganu on several occasions ... a very distinguished honor. She has conducted events

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## WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session .....	Brian Hakes Class of 2018
Christian Education.....	Bonnie Jackson Class of 2019
Church Life .....	Jill Bell Class of 2018
Finance .....	Gary Leonard Class of 2019
Membership .....	Carol Carlson Class of 2018
Missions/Outreach .....	Jan Leonard Class of 2019
Personnel.....	Larry Hicks Class of 2019
Properties .....	Don Bell Class of 2018
Worship .....	Suellen Kirkwood Class of 2020

**SESSION MEETS ON THE  
SECOND TUESDAY, MONTHLY,  
6:30 PM, IN THE PARLOR!**

## DEACONS

Moderator .....	Jeanie Olson Class of 2019
Anna Bussian.....	Class of 2020
Sue Burnham.....	Class of 2020
Mary Dill .....	Class of 2018
Kim Mitchell .....	Class of 2019
Alice Nash .....	Class of 2019
Edna Nugent .....	Class of 2019
Phyllis Rafferty .....	Class of 2020
Marge Willadsen.....	Class of 2020



## SESSION NOTES

From the March 13 Meeting



Respectfully,  
Brian Hakes, Clerk of Session

Rev. Clark-Jones is the Presbytery's Ministry Liaison for Morton Presbyterian Church and United Presbyterian Church. Flaws with the website calendar link for sending notices have been repaired.

A kitchen clean-up will be scheduled in the future but after the April luncheon.

The merger of the State Bank of Speer with Morton Community Bank is complete and the Morton Community Bank will work with the financial secretary to make the automated payroll system transition as seamless as possible. The session approved that a brokerage account be opened with TD Ameritrade. The primary purpose is to have an account to receive stock gifts to the church. This replaces Baird brokerage account.

The food pantry served 1,071 people in February.

The Peoria Public School has withdrawn their proposal to locate the Wrap Around Program in the Parish House.

WICC received a Ruby-Worner grant in the amount of \$6,878 which will be used for playground equipment.

Cambridge Construction repaired a Parish House roof leak over the upper floor janitors closet at a cost of \$2,500.

There is a meeting on Wednesday March 14 with contractors regarding the proposed elevator/lift in the Parish house.

The Neubert wedding in October will not be at Westminster; it has been moved to Joliet, Illinois.

The Session is looking for First Aid/CPR/AED training for staff and members. ✝

## HUNGRY BULLETIN

*Ashley Foster*

There was a decline in hunger for the general U.S. population in the year of 2017, but not for African-Americans. They experienced a 1% increase in hunger, which affected more than 150,000 households. It is extremely unfortunate that African-Americans continue to be more likely to suffer from lack of food than other Americans. The reason for this is poverty, as

*Continued on page 9 . . . .*

## WORSHIP

***Celebrating God as a church family.***

10 a.m. Sunday Morning

4 p.m. Sunday Jazz Vespers

## CONNECT

***Engaging as a Follower of Christ***

BRING a guest to Easter Sunday Worship.

Join Men's Coffee Fellowship: weekly,  
Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.

HOST Circle of Friends: monthly, September  
through May, 9 a.m.

## DEVELOP

***Growing as a Follower of Christ***

Bible Study: monthly, 2nd & 4th

Thursdays, 1:30 p.m.

## SERVE

***Honoring God by Serving Others***

- HELP with the Grounds Spring Cleaning (pg.3)  
- DONATE items to the Moss Avenue WICC Sale  
(pg.4)

- HOST Circle of Friends for a month. (pg.2)

- DONATE food for the WestMark Food Pantry  
(pg.4)

- FILL IN on occasion when the food pantry needs  
help.

- VOLUNTEER to serve (run sound, usher, host  
coffee hour)

- PLEDGE to the church

## PRAY

***Humble Yourself before God***

- Pray for WPC, our elders, deacons, and for our  
homebound members (Wanda T., Shirley K.,  
Helen H., Dorothy M., Hettie B., Florence W.,  
Marilyn H.)

- Those we serve through the food pantry and  
the Infant Care Center.

- Pray for needs of our family, friends, and loved  
ones: Eileen, Mike S., Carol, Josh, Mike, Erika,  
Lynn H., Adele F., Jane C., Jack A., Nancy L.,  
Rosemary M., Patty, Janet, John G., Dave H.,  
Julia H., Renny, Ron & Lynne, Barbara, Brian H.,  
Jim C., Jan Z., Jim A., Anne, Laura & Eric, Nelda  
K., Linda S., Marilyn W. & Julie, Bruce & Jan A.,  
Eunice S., Joan R., Joe, Keith & Zoe, Brad B.,  
Tom, Sylvia, Carolyn, and Diana.

## **Gymanfa Ganu - Iben continued from page 6 . . . .**

across the United States, Canada, Wales, Australia and New Zealand. Mari moved to the U.S. in 1996 because of her great popularity among Welsh-Americans and became a citizen in 2002. She not only leads the singing ... she makes it exciting and great fun. Her sense of humor and willingness to try various approaches to the beautiful music is outstanding and will be enjoyed by all.

In this sing, there will be many familiar tunes that we use in worship regularly. There will also be some new tunes you will immediately grow to love. It is compelling and exciting music in every way. The Welsh take their hymn singing seriously and sing in four parts almost all the time. You are free to sing the tune, but you might also enjoy the harmony. These hymns came from a great outpouring of hymn writing in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries among the Welsh people.

In addition to the hymn singing, our Choir will present an anthem or two of the great Welsh composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Tom Clark-Jones is the organist for the event.

Also, there will be a workshop on Welsh singing and culture in the Chapel here at Westminster at ten o'clock in the morning on **Saturday, April 21**. Mari will present many interesting facts and interactive art experiences to introduce folks to the art and culture of Wales.

Come and enjoy this wonderful music  
**Sunday, April 22, at four p.m. †**



well as racial and gender discrimination. The overall poverty rate in this country is 12.7%, while the poverty rate among African Americans is 22%. In female-headed African-American households, the rate is even higher- around 34%. There are a lot of reasons why there is more hunger within the African-American community in the United States. There is not as much access to good, affordable education. There should be equal opportunities in this country for quality education that is affordable for people of all colors. African-Americans have a higher rate of unemployment than the general population. If they had more access to education that they could afford, the unemployment rate would not be so high. They also have a higher rate of incarceration. African-Americans also have higher healthcare costs. This makes no sense. Why should they have to pay more for healthcare than people of other colors? If there were more public support for better policies, we could greatly reduce the percentages and hopefully eliminate hunger in the African-American community. †

## **CHURCH LIFE**

*Jill Bell*

I would like to take this time to thank the many people that always help when it is time to have an event involving food. It does seem like the same people show up in the kitchen and it doesn't matter if it is a 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Luncheon, coffee hour or a funeral reception that we have to prepare for. Everyone has busy schedules, especially those who work full time jobs or have other volunteer activities. I'd like to recognize the following people for all of their continued support and hard work.

Don Bell, Carol Borders, Marian Borders, Jim & Sue Burnham, Carol Carlson, Gary Dutro, Wanda Grimes, Brian & Joyce Hakes, Bonnie & John Jackson, Suellen Kirkwood, Alan & Linda Kupper, Gary & Janet Leonard, Marilyn Luman, Alice Nash, Elizabeth Richmond, Jerrie Ruck, Laura Van Riper, Alan and Carole Willadsen, Hannah Willadsen, and Marge Willadsen.

I am eternally thankful to you, Pat Wagner! I am so appreciative of all the phone calls that you make to get all of the volunteers that are needed. I couldn't do it without you!! †

## **STOP THE PRESSES!**

*Jill Bell*

**April's luncheon is on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.**

Hospitality is changing the date from April 22 to April 29 to accommodate the Iben Event that will be occurring that weekend. So, mark your calendars with this change! This is also our last luncheon before summer starts. We are cleaning out the freezer and the cupboards to use up what we have accumulated since last fall. There will be homemade chili, barbeques, mac-n-cheese, relishes and so on. I can guarantee it will be good!

While you are enjoying lunch, take the time to browse the books in the library, old photos and memorabilia that we are purging from our files. It will be worth coming and taking a look! We may also need some help with identifying some of the people in the older photos. So come take a step back in time with us, it should be fun! †

## **COME, GROW WITH US!**

*Pastor Denise Clark-Jones*

Is winter finally over? With the unpredictability of weather I have no idea whether the day you read this will feel like winter, spring or summer. Yet, I imagine there are signs of new life. For gardeners this is the time of year we want to start planting, but we are warned to wait until May (after Mothers' Day is the rule I have heard). The perennial plants, the established trees that were planted years ago will be green again. If we have cared for them over the years, we have a strong expectation that will happen, even if we only see small signs of their regrowth.

If we have done the work of Lent, we will be enjoying the fruits of our labor in the Easter season. During the Easter season, we celebrate what is not seen, but experienced. An empty tomb. That's a stumbling block for many. How do you experience something you don't see? What a narrow, literal-minded idea! Think of all the things you know and believe that you can't see.

But that's just what Christians are supposed to do to celebrate Easter. "Christ is risen! "Alleluia! Tell

all the World!" It is the very heart of Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the world-changing, life-altering implications. At the Table we celebrate the Risen Christ, present with us.

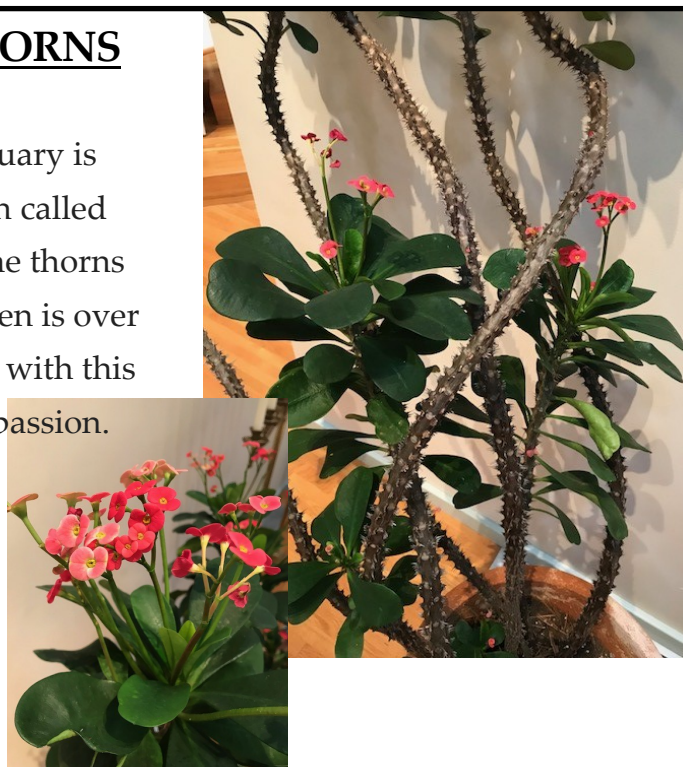
Our featured gospel this church year is Mark. This gospel highlights "the mystery of our faith." Mark is the only gospel that does not have a resurrection appearance. At the end of Mark's gospel, the women go to Jesus' tomb and find it empty. They flee in fear and awe, telling no one. Mark teases us with the mystery of how the Good News spread. We know it did, so what happened?

The answer to the mystery lies in the work of the Holy Spirit in making our faith possible. The seeds have been planted. The ones that have fallen on fertile ground begin to grow quickly. Other seeds need more help to grow. This is what we do for each other when we come to church to worship and invite others to join us, when we get together to read and study the bible, when we walk in Christ's footpaths and find the way has been cleared for us. Spread the Good News: "Christ is Risen." He is risen indeed!" Blessings! Pastor Denise †




### **THE CROWN OF THORNS**

*Dan Callahan*

The tall plant in the Sanctuary is 'euphorbia milii.' It is often called 'Crown of Thorns' due to the thorns along its stems. This specimen is over 30 years old. Lent concludes with this visible symbol of Christ's passion.



# APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 EASTER / COMMUNION</b> <b>10a Easter Jazz</b> <b>Worship Service</b> No Coffee Hour No Jazz Vespers 	<b>2 EASTER MONDAY</b> Church Office Closed 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>3</b> <b>9a Circle of Friends</b> 11:30a Food Delivery	<b>4</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting 7p Moss Bradley Residential Assoc. Mtg	<b>5</b> 6:15p Bell Choir Prac. 7:30p Choir Practice	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Westminster Infant Care Center Closed April 1- 7 for Spring Break. Infant Care will resume on April 9</b>						
<b>8</b> 10a Worship Service 11a Coffee Hour 4p Jazz Vespers	<b>9</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>10</b> 4:30p WICC Board Mtg 6:30p Session	<b>11</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting	<b>12</b> 1p Food Delivery <b>1:30p Lectionary</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 6:15p Bell Choir Prac. 7:30p Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10a Worship Service 11a Coffee Hour 4p Jazz Vespers	<b>16</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>17</b> 11:30a Food Delivery	<b>18</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting <b>12p Finance Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> 6:15p Bell Choir Prac. 7:30p Choir Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9a - 12p WICC SALE Drop-Off Date <b>10a Welsh Sing</b> <b>Workshop</b>
<b>22</b> 10a Worship Service 11a Coffee Hour <b>4p GYMANFA GANU</b> <b>Gretchen R. Iben Event</b>	<b>23</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open	<b>24</b> Committee on Missions Meeting. Pastor will be out of the office today.	<b>25</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting	<b>26</b> 11a Food Delivery <b>1:30p Lectionary</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9a Church Grounds Spring Cleaning 
<b>29</b> 10a Worship Service <b>11a 5th Sunday Luncheon</b>	<b>30</b> 9-11a WestMark Food Pantry Open 11:30a Food Delivery	<b>MAY 1</b>  9a Circle of Friends 11:30a Food Delivery	<b>MAY 2</b> 7:30a Men's Coffee Hr. 10a Staff Meeting	<b>★NATIONAL★</b> <b>DAY of PRAYER</b> 6:15p Bell Choir Prac. 7:30p Choir Practice	<b>MAY 4</b>	<b>MAY 5</b> 9a RAIN DATE FOR Church Grounds Spring Cleaning <b>9a - 12p WICC SALE</b> Drop-Off Date

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

13 - Trisha Cullen

4 - Madison Fisher

16 - Janet Kelley

4 - Suellen Kirkwood

17 - Gina O'Neill-Hawkins

22 - Morgan Kupper

24 - Mark Matuszak

26 - Ben Willadsen

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

24 - Diane & Jeff Case

## APRIL SERVANT SCHEDULE

SERVICES	USHERS	GREETERS	SOUND	LITURGIST	ACOLYTE	COFFEE HOUR
<b>1 Sun AM EASTER</b>	Kim Mitchell John Jackson	Dick Helfrich Alice Nash	Chris Hovey	Bonnie Jackson	John Jackson	N/A
<b>1 Sun PM EASTER</b>	<b>No Jazz Vespers</b>	<b>No Jazz Vespers</b>	<b>Happy Easter</b>	<b>No Jazz Vespers</b>	<b>No Jazz Vespers</b>	
<b>8 Sun AM</b>	Alan Kupper Marge Willadsen	Linda Kupper Gary Dutro	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Anna Bussian	Alan Kupper Suellen Kirkwood
<b>8 Sun JAZZ</b>	Conrad Stinnett	Suellen Kirkwood	Suellen Kirkwood	Don Bell	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood N/A
<b>15 Sun AM</b>	Jeff Case Diane Case	Laura Van Riper Dick Helfrich	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Conrad Stinnett	Laura Van Riper Carole & Hannah Willadsen
<b>15 Sun JAZZ</b>	John Jackson	Bonnie Jackson	Suellen Kirkwood	Alan Willadsen	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood N/A
<b>22 Sun AM</b>	Dan Callahan Jan Leonard	Janet Kelley Gary Leonard	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Jim Burnham	Gary Leonard Don & Jill Bell
<b>22 Sun NO JAZZ</b>	<b>GRETCHEN R. IBEN ARTS SERIES - IBEN COMMITTEE SERVING - AFTERNOON EVENT BEGINS AT 4 PM - GRETCHEN R. IBEN ARTS SERIES</b>					
<b>29 Sun AM</b>	Jan Leonard Dick Helfrich	Gary Leonard Suellen Kirkwood	Dick Helfrich	Steve Sager	Dan Callahan	Suellen Kirkwood 5th Sunday Luncheon
<b>29 Sun JAZZ</b>	Alice Nash	Marge Willadsen	Suellen Kirkwood	Tom Clark-Jones	Pastor Denise	Suellen Kirkwood N/A

*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 and the church office of the changes.*



### COMMUNION SCHEDULE

*The Sacrament of Communion will be observed each Sunday through Pentecost.*

<u>APRIL 1 / EASTER SUNDAY</u>	<u>APRIL 8 / MORNING WORSHIP</u>	<u>APRIL 15 / MORNING WORSHIP</u>	<u>APRIL 22 / MORNING WORSHIP</u>	<u>APRIL 29 / MORNING WORSHIP</u>
Bread - Diane Case	Bread - Jan Leonard	Bread - Jeff Case	Bread - Jan Leonard	Bread - Jan Leonard
Wine - Jeff Case	Wine - Gary Leonard	Wine - Diane Case	Wine - Gary Leonard	Wine - Gary Leonard
Bread - Kim Mitchell	Bread - Brian Hakes	Bread - Suellen Kirkwood	Bread - Brian Hakes	Bread - Brian Hakes
Wine - Pastor Denise	Wine - Pastor Denise	Wine - Pastor Denise	Wine - Pastor Denise	Wine - Pastor Denise
Traveler - John Jackson	Traveler - Suellen Kirkwood	Traveler - Don Bell	Traveler - Suellen Kirkwood	Traveler - Suellen Kirkwood

*Ministry Elders are Suellen Kirkwood for Worship and Jill Bell for Coffee Hour*



# THEOLOGICAL GRACE NOTES

Rev. Dr. Raymond Anderson

## *Risi Pascalis*

Since Easter falls on April Fools' Day this year, it may be an opportune time to remind ourselves of an Easter Sunday practice that was dear to the ancient Church. The pastor was expected to save the funniest joke he could muster to set the tone for Easter worship: *Risi pascalis*, they called it, Easter laughter.

For in all human history there had been no event so joyful as the one that we are to celebrate this first day of April. For the news of Jesus' resurrection grounded the claim that the Life-Creator and Lord of the Universe was fully behind him—underwriting his unbounded love, free acceptance, and healing grace even for the worst enemies. The resurrection claim, meant that God would not let what Jesus was and stood for simply die away—that his humanity is one with the Creator's own innermost nature. For all Time—even for times after Time!

In effect this was the great surprise, the great reversal, the greatest pleasantry of all history.

For in ordinary experience Death seems to hold all life in its claws; and everything about us appears fragile and temporary. Stony desert wastes stretching off to the horizon have more solidity than any living thing, while every human endeavor is stamped with Nature's ambiguity and will wither like grass. Our best science faces entropy, our best efforts, a dead end.

So, Death is pictured grinning with an evil sneer. .

But God turns the tables with his re-creation of this man, Jesus—who was claimed to be his own messianic representative. If that's so, the rug is pulled right out from under death. This is the grand surprise, flung in the face of all other experience—the cosmic joke of the universe.

That's something to celebrate at Easter: the joke is on Death!

Jesus used three prominent images for our *mission* when we are oriented to this great reversal: We are to be **light**, reflecting light-hearted hope for the whole somber world. We are to be its **yeast** bringing light-hearted levity and effervescence to its morose moments, and we are to be **salt** [a metaphor that was used in the ancient world, for wit or humor]—the condiment that brings out the flavor of everything—as it loses itself, here and now, in the life of those around.

This may well be where our calling lies today. Although many still suppose that civil greatness means self-aggrandizement and winning an edge over other peoples, "it shall not be so with you" [Mark 10:44]. For whoever would be great must be of service to all—spreading light-hearted levity, alive with Christ-funded humor, and sparking joy for everyone around (*risi pascalis*). †

*(Dr. Anderson was a colleague of mine in Pennsylvania. We belonged to the same clergy book club for several years. While doing his doctoral studies, Ray studied with Karl Barth in Switzerland. Ray had a long and distinguished career as the head of the religion department at Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA. This year, he gifted me with two articles for publication for my congregation, one for Easter and one for Pentecost. Hope you enjoy his Easter offering!). †*

## HOLY WEEK CLEAN-UP DAY

Janet Kelley

"The Westminster Presbyterian Church Properties Committee extends a hearty thank you to Dan Callahan, Carol Carlson, Gary Dutro, Rob Elsen, Brian and Joyce Hakes, John Jackson, Janet Kelley, Gary and Jan Leonard, Michael Link, Caden Richmond, and Steve Sager for helping prepare the grounds on March 22 for Holy Week. We couldn't have done it without you!" †



By Julia Hoffman

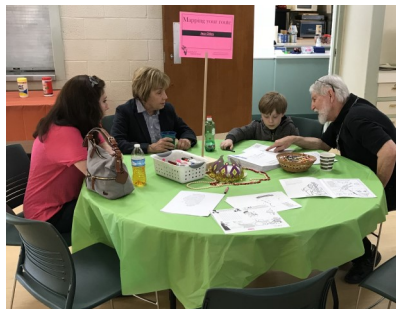
The rattling of the shakers that the children created in art class can probably still be heard as each child participated in playing their instruments alongside the Jazz Musicians at the **Gretchen R. Iben Arts Series**

"Jazzing Up the Rivers' Concert." This amazing time included an introduction to Jazz for young children and their families, as well as an out-

reach to our community. The children were encouraged to make egg shakers and maracas as they were assisted by over 26 volunteers from our church family! As the children worked on their maps, they looked at how Jazz began in New Orleans and traveled up the river. The children were invited to have their pictures taken with the HUGE paddleboat that was put together by Mary Lee!

As the children gathered in the church for the concert, our Jazz Band greeted them with the sounds of "Take the A Train" (Billy Strayhorn). Next, the children were led in the theme song "Jazzing Up the Rivers" (David Hoffman) as they used the musical techniques of call and response. The sounds of laughter filled the air as the children scatted to "He Beeped When He Should Have Bopped" (Dizzy Gillespie). The children marched, stomped and danced their way over to snacks to the tune of "The Saints Go Marching In" as they followed in the footsteps of the Great Louis Armstrong.

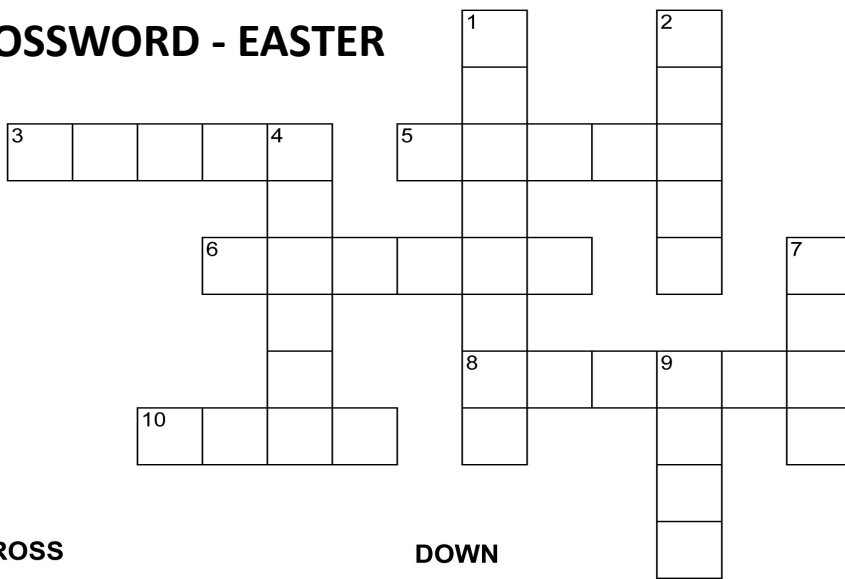
The program ended with a social time where children of all ages Jazzed up a cupcake, picked up their pictures to take home with them and were invited to return to Jazz Vespers on Sundays at 4 p.m. Thank you for Jazzing Up the Rivers with us!!! ✝



Westminster would like to thank Julia Hoffman, who saw the vision for this wonderful children's event "Jazzing Up The Rivers" which was presented by the Gretchen R. Iben Arts Series, as well as Sue Burnham, who stepped in to help get everything coordinated and ready for the exciting day. We would also like to give a HUGE THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers, Jean Ashton, Jim Burnham, Jill Bell, Peggy Bragg, Peggy Carter, Mary Lee Caudle, Joyce & Brian Hakes, Julia Hoffman, Bonnie & John Jackson, Janet Kelley, Suellen Kirkwood, Linda & Brooks McDaniel, Alice Nash, Steve Sager, Jean & Art Schlesinger, Kylie & Macy Webb, Hannah, Carole, & Alan Willadsen, and anyone who I may have forgotten, who really made this event a "Jazzy" hit! We most definitely could not have done this without all of your help! ✝



## CROSSWORD - EASTER



## ACROSS

- 3 This was left behind in the tomb
- 5 Jesus died on this
- 6 The body of Jesus was prepared after his death and they put what on it
- 8 Holiday we celebrate for Jesus rising
- 10 Jesus died on a cross for our what

**DOWN**

- 1 Mary thought Jesus was this
- 2 Who rose from the dead on the third day
- 4 This was folded up in the tomb
- 7 She looked in the tomb to find Jesus gone
- 9 Jesus was placed in this after his death



## WORD SEARCH - JESUS

T	B	F	B	R	R	T	L	D	W	N	F	L	N	Z	P
R	N	O	C	D	K	N	O	S	S	O	R	C	X	K	R
K	S	R	Y	K	O	G	C	P	N	I	L	D	R	T	P
P	U	G	T	R	S	G	G	L	X	L	K	K	G	T	Z
J	S	I	L	T	E	A	F	C	M	E	S	S	I	A	H
M	E	V	L	W	X	S	L	O	L	G	N	T	M	Q	H
H	J	E	T	F	M	B	U	V	N	M	L	Q	H	N	T
E	N	N	Q	D	M	C	J	R	A	O	T	R	Y	L	E
A	B	E	N	A	A	K	S	E	R	T	S	W	K	L	R
V	D	S	L	L	V	E	L	H	R	E	I	V	H	C	A
E	Y	S	V	Q	L	C	Q	X	M	U	C	O	R	H	Z
N	C	A	R	C	R	L	B	D	T	N	S	T	N	L	A
L	R	A	A	M	O	R	L	V	X	K	K	A	I	L	N
Y	T	R	E	V	L	O	R	D	Y	N	L	T	L	O	Z
B	I	Y	E	P	B	T	H	E	A	L	I	N	G	E	N
M	N	H	D	E	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	P	J	R	M

Calvary  
Cross  
Crucified  
Forgiveness  
God  
Healing  
Heaven  
Jerusalem  
Jesus  
Lamb  
Lion  
Lord  
Love  
Messiah  
Miracles  
Nazareth  
Peace  
Resurrec-  
tion  
Salvation

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete words with various vowel arrangements. Then place the circled letters in the correct blanks below to complete an Easter phrase.

1. Brave: O \_ \_ \_ \_ E O U \_ \_
2. A dark profile: \_ \_ \_ \_ O U E \_ \_ \_
3. Circular: \_ \_ O U \_ \_ \_
4. Running away: \_ \_ \_ E E \_ \_ \_
5. Savage, fierce: \_ \_ \_ \_ I O U \_ \_
6. Odd or nostalgic: \_ \_ U A I \_ \_ \_
7. A person from the 50th state: \_ \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ I A \_ \_
8. Compress, push together: \_ \_ \_ U E E \_ \_ \_
9. A large tree in California: \_ \_ \_ \_ U \_ \_ I A \_ \_
10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: \_ \_ \_ \_ O E I \_ \_ \_
11. Upright, moral and righteous: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ U O U \_ \_
12. Lining up in a row: \_ \_ U E U \_ \_ \_
13. Gorgeous: \_ \_ E A U \_ \_ E \_ \_ U \_ \_
14. Precipitation: \_ \_ \_ A I \_ \_ \_

Easter phrase:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9						10	
11		12		13		14	



**"I thought your Easter message was great, except when you went off on a bunny trail."**

**CROSSWORD WORD BANK:** Cross, Easter, gardener, Jesus, linen Mary, Napkin, sins, spices, Tomb  
**PUZZLE:** 1. courageous 2. silhouette 3. round 4. fleeing 5. vicious 6. quaint 7. Hawaiian 8. squeeze  
 9. sequoia 10. canoeing 11. virtuous 12. queuing 13. beauteous 14. rain Phrase: Christ is Savior!

WESTMINSTER  
Presbyterian Church

1420 W. Moss Ave.  
Peoria, Illinois 61606

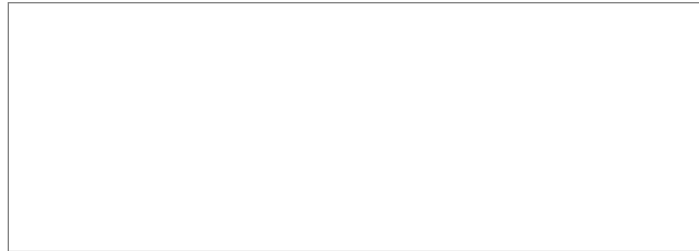
Rev. Denise  
Clark-Jones

JOIN US  
SUNDAYS  
10 AM  
Traditional Worship  
4 PM  
Jazz Vespers

*Serving God with  
Open Mind,  
Hands, and Heart*

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*celebrate*

**EASTER**  
*@ Westminster*

**Sunday, April 1  
10 AM**

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