

The Westminster The WINDOW

A Publication of the Westminster Presbyterian Church

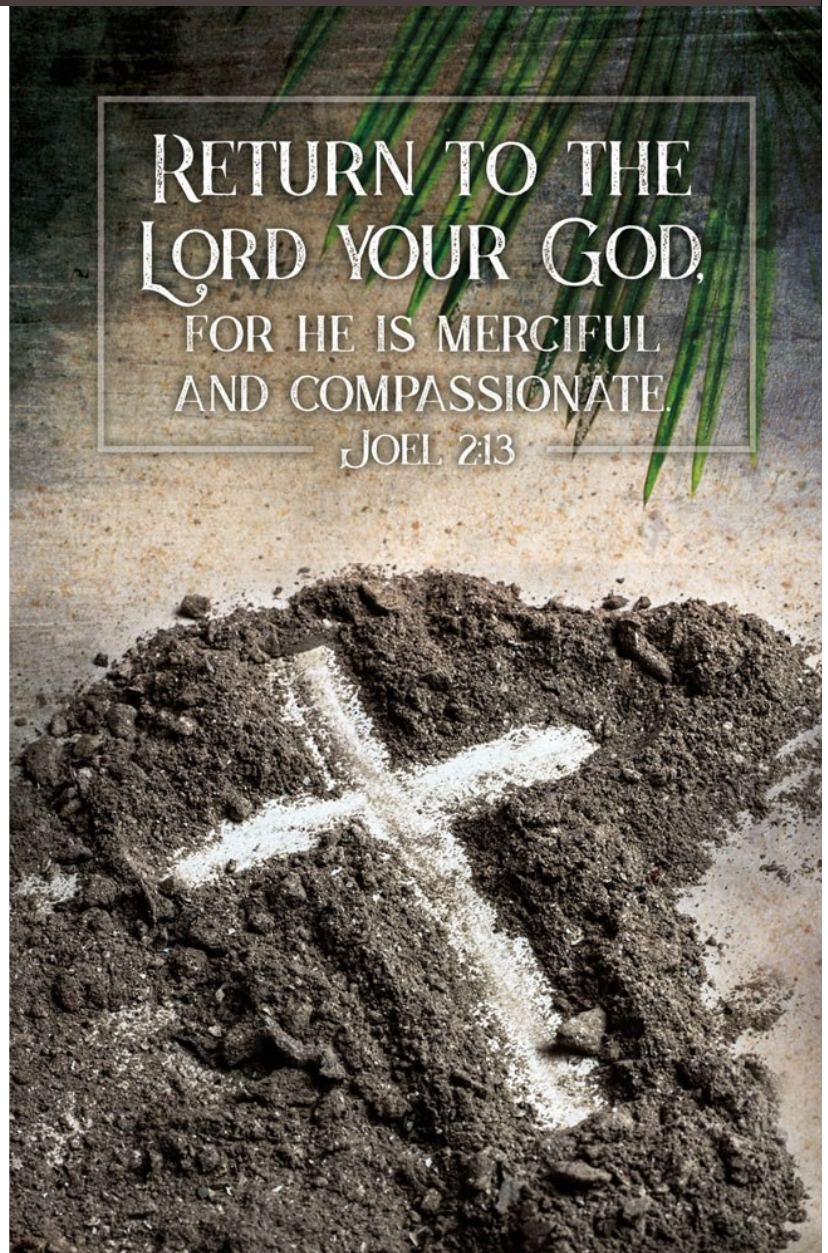
ASHES TO ASHES DUST TO DUST

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

On Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m., we will observe Ash Wednesday with a live stream service of Worship. The paraments are changed from white to purple, marking the beginning of Lent. This service has not been well attended at Westminster in the past. Even though it is one of the most moving services of the year, going out after dark has been a deterrent for some and adding one more church service into busy schedules has discouraged others. If you have not attended an Ash Wednesday service, this year you have an opportunity to participate in the comfort of your own home with our live-streamed service.

The Imposition of Ashes will not be the same. The pope has advised Roman Catholic clergy to sprinkle ashes on their parishioners' heads. For virtual services, some churches are sending out packets of ashes for worshippers to mark their own foreheads with the sign of the cross. Researching the possibilities, I learned that you do not have to use ashes; dirt from your own yard will suffice. The usual practice is for the congregation to come forward and I say to each person in turn: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* To which the individual responds: *"In life and in death, I belong to God."*

Did you know that the phrase, "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust," does not appear in the bible? The phrase first appeared in the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England. It was part of the liturgy for graveside funeral services. A



mourner would take a handful of dirt that had been piled up when the grave was dug and throw it upon the casket after it had been lowered into the grave. The practice was designed as a visual sign of our mortality and an encouragement to focus our hope

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Email wpc@westminsterpeoria.org

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THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

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SESSION NOTES

Jim Burnham
Clerk of Session



Notes from the Session Meeting that was held on
January 12, 2021

The session has moved to provide funding beyond the regular budgeted amount to sustain WICC through the rest of the school year. WICC's financial problems have been caused, at least in part, by the COVID-19 pandemic. The WICC sale, the most important WICC fundraiser, had to be cancelled this year as you probably know. Furthermore, an ongoing decline in enrollment has been exacerbated by the disruption to the regular school schedule. This disruption has made communication among the schools, the church, and the students who stand to benefit from the program more difficult. WICC was created by Westminster and has been supported by the church for many years. Supplementary funds have been provided to maintain our support through this difficult period while at the same time the suggestion has been made that structural and organizational changes may need to be discussed that will put WICC on a more sustainable financial footing.

Data for the food pantry is incomplete for the month of December, but we know that at least 716 individuals representing 159 families were served. ✝

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays | February 4, 11, 18, 25 | 1:00 PM

Mary Lee

Join us as we dig deeper into the meaning of the scripture for Sundays. For this month we will meet on February 4, 11, 18, & 25.

Bible study is on Thursdays at 1 p.m., via Zoom. We take an in-depth look at the scriptures for that Sunday. All are welcome to join us either at 1 p.m. via Zoom or those who can not make it at the scheduled time can watch at our website: <https://westminsterpeoria.org/worship/bible-study/> These are usually available within a week of the study. However, I am in the middle of redoing the web page so you may not find all the recordings. I am hopeful to have this page updated within a couple of weeks.

To join Zoom Bible Study: <https://zoom.us/j/98673203228?pwd=Tm5nc0JlTlRkxiSHg2VzNNdHNDdz09>

Meeting ID: 986 7320 3228 | **Passcode:** BIBLESTUDY ✝

on eternal life and the promised resurrection of the dead. The priest would read these words:

*"FORASMUCH as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear brother here departed: we therefore commit his body to the ground; **earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust**; in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our vile body, that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working, whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself."*

The image of ashes and dust as symbols of our mortality appear many times in the bible – most notably from Genesis 3:19: "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These are the words God speaks to Adam and Eve announcing their banishment from the Garden of Eden for disobeying God's command not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. From this story came the doctrine of Original Sin -. humanity's fatal flaw is the inability to resist sin. Reading in the book of Job, thought to be one of the earliest books written of the Old Testament, we learn that wearing sackcloth and sitting in ashes was a symbol of repentance: "I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42: 6)

So came the tradition of having our foreheads marked by ashes in the shape of the cross upon which Christ was crucified, sacrificing his bodily life for the forgiveness of our sin. The season of Lent, introduced by Ash Wednesday, is a time during which we are invited to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor by exercising the Disciplines of Lent: repentance, fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Living out a discipline takes our Lord's words about obedience and self-denial seriously. Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my fol-

lowers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24).

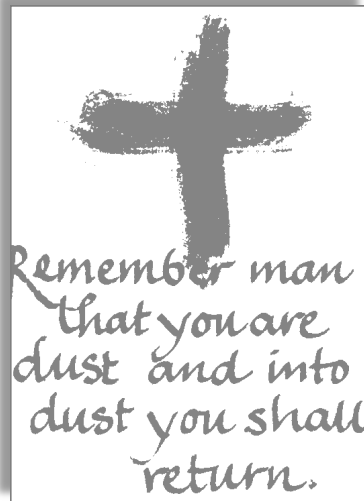
Our Lenten sacrifice, also called a "fast," is to either give up something that is a stumbling block to our relationship with God or others and to do something that serves God's kingdom. In a year when we have given up so many of the activities we enjoy, a Lenten sacrifice may seem to be an added burden. Somehow, I doubt God sees the lack of opportunity to sin as the kind of sacrifice that demonstrates our faithfulness.

The Epiphany season is designed for discovery. It is a time of seeking God's revelations to us with the perseverance of the Magi following the star to Bethlehem. It is also a time of self-discovery – learning about ourselves in relation to God through Christ. As such, Epiphany directs us from revelation to confession and repentance,

which then leads us to transformation and new life in Christ – the Easter miracle.

This year, I encourage you to take advantage of the slower pace of life to which the Covid-19 virus has restricted us and observe Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. I hope you will tune in to participate in Westminster's service of worship with the Imposition of Ashes and the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. May you have a holy and fruitful Lent!

Blessings on your Lenten journey,
Pastor Denise ☩



02.17.21 | 7:00 P/M

LOVE STREAMED SERVICE

Join us as we celebrate
the beginning of the
Season of Lent.



Never miss another service!

Go now to [YouTube](#) and click the '[Subscribe](#)' button and click the bell to '[Set Reminder](#)'.

**REVISED
COMMON LECTIONARY
READINGS**

(for Year B)



Content Source: [Presbyterian Church
\(USA\) Presbyterian Mission](#)

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading [Isaiah 40:21-31](#)

Psalm [147:1-11, 20c](#)

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#)

Gospel [Mark 1:29-39](#)

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Transfiguration of the Lord

First Reading [2 Kings 2:1-12](#)

Psalm [50:1-6](#)

Second Reading [2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#)

Gospel [Mark 9:2-9](#)



Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday

First Reading [Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#)

Or alternate First Reading [Isaiah 58:1-12](#)

Psalm [51:1-17](#)

Second Reading [2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](#)

Gospel [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#)

Sunday, February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

First Reading [Genesis 9:8-17](#)

Psalm [25:1-10](#)

Second Reading [1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

Gospel [Mark 1:9-15](#)

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading [Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)

Psalm [22:23-31](#)

Second Reading [Romans 4:13-25](#)

Gospel [Mark 8:31-38](#)

HUMIDITY

Steve Sager

Samuel Clemens once wrote that "History never repeats itself, but it does often rhyme." History rhymed when for the second time in three years we lost our capability to produce humidity for the Sanctuary.

Now on the surface, this sounds counter-intuitive. Humidity and the Sanctuary conjures up nightmares of mold and mold remediation. But some humidity is not only good....it is needed.

Why?

Westminster's Visser-Rowland organ is overly sensitive to humidity deviations. Ideally, the organ operates best at 25 - 30 percent humidity. Anything less than that negatively impacts the sound quality and more importantly can cause warping in the organ's chest work which would require a hefty sum to rebuild the chest.

In the Westminster Boiler Room, we have a logic-controlled humidifier unit that injects humidity into the Sanctuary when it detects a drop in humidity of less than 25 percent. During the winter when conditions are dry, the humidifier unit works extra hard to keep up with the low humidity conditions. Consequently, more water is pumped into the unit to keep up with the demand. And as we all know, Peoria water is extremely high in minerals which causes sediment. This sediment builds up, eventually clogs the barrel filters in our humidifier unit causing it to fail. This is why we recently lost our capability to make humidity and our Sanctuary humidity was down to 15 percent.

But Alpha Energy Solutions to the rescue. Josh Karl, our HVAC Technician, diagnosed the problem, ordered the necessary barrel filter and installed the new filter.....thus restoring our required Sanctuary humidity. And for good measure, Josh ordered a second filter to keep on-hand as an emergency backup.

So, humidity is not just Mother Nature's cruel practical joke on curly haired people everywhere. It is an essential ingredient in making beautiful music at Westminster. And to end with a quote by Henry Giles..."A song will outlive all sermons in memory." ✝

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Clerk of Session	Jim Burnham Class of 2021
Christian Education.....	Peggy Bragg Class of 2021
Church Life	Open
Finance	Brian Hakes Class of 2022
Membership	Kim Mitchell Class of 2022
Missions/Outreach	Jan Leonard Class of 2022
Personnel	Larry Hicks Class of 2022
Properties	John Jackson Class of 2021
Worship	Open

**SESSION MEETS ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY, MONTHLY,
6:30 PM. VIA ZOOM.**



DEACONS

Moderator	Jeanie Olson Class of 2022
Bonnie Jackson	Class of 2023
Sue Burnham	Class of 2021
Alice Nash	Class of 2022
Phyllis Rafferty	Class of 2021
Marge Willadsen	Class of 2021
Laura Van Riper	Class of 2021

Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)

Marked by Ashes



Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day . . .

This day — a gift from you.

This day — like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.
This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home

halfway back to committees and memos,
halfway back to calls and appointments,
halfway on to next Sunday,
halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,
half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday,
but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes —
we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:
of failed hope and broken promises,
of forgotten children and frightened women,
we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with
some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes
anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —
you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,
Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;
Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.

Come here and Easter our Wednesday with
mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon. †

WHITTIER DAY CARE

Janet Leonard

Update on the Day Care Program in Fellowship Hall


At this writing, the YMCA has decided they can no longer run or be part of the day care program as is. The numbers of students in the program, as requested by Whittier, will not suffice for the numbers the Y needs to at least break even. Whittier would like a select number of students (ten) who need more intensive support academically and who cannot get the needed support in their home environment.

Therefore, efforts are being made to continue the program without the YMCA's involvement. Whittier will run the program with Katie Fitch (River City Music Therapy housed in the Morgan Room) as the coordinator. Katie has been instrumental in helping to get financial support. The Moss Bradley Residential Association is also taking an active interest.

The amount of additional dollars needed to run the program until the end of May is \$8,000. If there is an interest on your part to help see the program continuing until the end of the school year, you can either click on the Peoria Public Schools Foundation link below or send your contribution to Westminster. Please put Whittier on the memo line of your check. Thank you! ✝

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=4CE5UZG2ZXVWA





FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

16 Pastor Denise & Tom Clark-Jones
tclarkjones1227@gmail.com
clarkjones.denise522@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 Anna Bussian
ruthab237@aol.com

3 Jordan Case

6 Julie Hill
jh511c@mchsi.com

10 Carol Borders
kittyborders16@gmail.com

11 Sally Fitch
deweyair@aol.com

12 Conrad Stinnett
Conradstinnett@yahoo.com

18 Dick Helfrich
rdhelfrich@sbcglobal.net

28 Diane Case
diane.case@rlcorp.com

WHITTIER DAY CARE PROGRAM

☐ **YES!** I want to help the Day Care Program and to keep it available to those children in need of educational support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

Phone: _____

Please write Whittier Day Care Program on the memo portion of your check.

Email (optional): _____

Thank You!

Clip and mail this form along with your donation to the address below.

WESTMINSTER CHURCH ♦ BOX WDCP ♦ 1420 W MOSS AVE ♦ PEORIA, IL 61606

Lenten Devotional 2021

The Way to Shalom

A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. It is a season of preparation during the 40 days and six Sundays before Easter. Lent is a time when we reflect upon the love of God and the gift of God's grace. It has a solemn beginning with Ash Wednesday, which is on Feb. 17 this year. On that day, with burnt palm branches crushed into ashes smudged onto foreheads, we are reminded that "from dust you came and to dust you shall return."

But Lent is not a time to wallow in worry about God's wrath. It is not a time of anxiety about our sinfulness or worth. Lent is a time of reflection on what God has done to redeem us and how we can live a whole and full life as a child of God. The Apostle Paul counsels us in Philippians 4: "Have no anxiety about anything" (RSV).

A different Lenten focus for 2021

While Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, service and contemplation, at the top of our list should be a prayer for the acquisition of peace. This year for the season of Lent, we invite you to reflect upon the gift of *shalom*, the Hebrew word for peace. In the Bible, *shalom* can be translated not only as peace, but also as tranquility, security, well-being, health, welfare, completeness and safety. How can we receive this gift of *shalom* and, in turn, bestow it upon the world?

In Israel, *shalom* is both a greeting and a farewell. When greeted by "*shalom*," it is a form of hopeful blessing that you are filled with God's perfect peace and well-being. It is a prayer that you will have health, prosperity and peace of mind and spirit. *Shalom* denotes fullness and perfection, an overflowing joy that moves from your innermost being and is expressed in the way you live your life and engage with others.

The season of Lent moves us to reflect deeply upon *shalom*. We live in a world in desperate need of peace. The United States has just come out of a contentious election while struggling with a global pandemic and grappling with racial violence. Poverty, misery and despair fill many corners of the world. Violence holds a vicious grip on the lives of many people. We desire peace. We need peace. We must pray — and work — for peace here in the U.S. as well as in other parts of the world. The need for peace is a global one, and this devotional will raise awareness of our brothers and sisters who are living in areas around the world that are filled with conflict and strife.

To obtain peace, though, we must explore the full ex-

tent of its meaning. The search for *shalom* must examine it as relational, connectional and communal. It is relational wherein my peace cannot be achieved if others are denied what makes them whole. It recognizes that what impacts you impacts me. It is connectional in that it begins with a recognition that we are children of God created "in the image and likeness of God." *Shalom* is communal in that it builds community and enables us to live as one. Scripture proclaims the need for *shalom*. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, blesses us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives" (John 14:27a).

This Lent, let us make our way to *shalom* — a gift that will bless one another and the world. — *Jimmie Hawkins*

Engaging with the Lenten Devotional:

How to approach each week

Each week in Lent will have a new theme covering one of the many definitions of *shalom*. You will be invited to begin the week by reflecting on the theme. Ponder it in prayer before beginning to read

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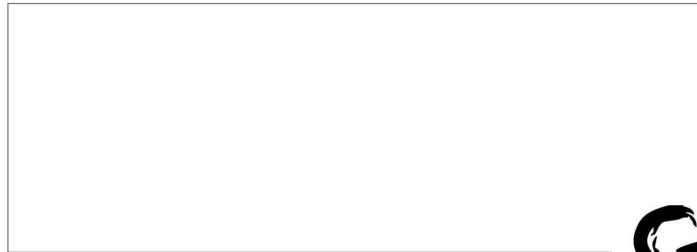
שְׁלוֹמִי
The Way to Shalom
A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness

PRESBYTERIANS TODAY | 2021 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



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

Jesus Loves . . .



each day's devotional. Ask God to open your heart to receive whatever message the Spirit is eager to give you during this season of walking with the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

Presbyterians Today also invites you to create your own visual reminder of the importance of praying for peace. Using strips of fabric and a fabric marker, write your prayers for peace weekly or daily and then attach them to either a tree in your yard, a railing on the steps of your home or even a fence. Let the fabric, blowing in the wind, be a witness in your community that peace is possible and that it begins with each one of us. Go a step further and share with those in your community about God's shalom and invite them to add to the peace tree, railing or fence. By Easter morning, may there be hundreds of peace prayers blowing in the wind, greeting a new day with hope. Share your peace prayer trees, railings or fences with Donna Frischknecht Jackson, editor of *Presbyterians Today* at Donna.Jackson@pcusa.org ✝

A Lenten Journey in a Bag

LENT is a season when many people make a special focus on enhancing their ever-growing and loving relationship with God. Christ's life, ministry, and death are remembered during this season. It is also a time to think about how God is with us all the time.

We have prepared special Lenten Journey bags for Ash Wednesday and for the Lenten season. Each of the items has been chosen to help you reflect and deepen your journey through the season of Lent. They will also include communion elements and ashes for the Ash Wednesday service.

If you would like to have a Lenten Journey bag, please contact the church office and let us know how many you want. wpc@westminsterpeoria.org or call 309.673.8501 option 5 / ext. 3. Please leave a message if no one answers.

The Lenten Journey bags can be picked up at the church in the Narthex. If you are unable to get to the church but would like to participate in this journey, let us know and we can have it delivered to your home.

**To receive in time for Ash Wednesday the
DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14.**

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always!