

Westminster Weekly Window

April 21, 2024

Today's Message

"No Reservations: Becoming a Justice People"

Scripture Readings

Today: Isaiah 42, Ps 72:1-4, 12-14, Matt 10:32-42, Matt 25

April 21, 2024: Mal 3:8-12, Ps. 24:1-2, I Cor 4:2, Matt 6:1-4

Serving This Morning

Usher – Raffertys
Greeter – Dick Helfrich
Coffee Hour – Open

Serving Next Sunday - April 28

Usher – Laura VanRiper
Greeter – Dick Helfrich
Coffee Hour – Open

Happening This Week - April 21-April 28, 2024

Men's Coffee Group at Panera's at Westlake at 7:30a on Wednesday of every week

April 21 - Sunday Worship 10:30a - Coffee Fellowship 10:00a – One Great Hour of Sharing

April 21 - April Adventure Lunch, Fellowship Hall at 11:30a

April 22 - WM Food Pantry Open 9-11a

April 23 – Deacon Meeting, Parlor from 11:30a – 1p

April 25 - Choir Rehearsal 6p

April 25 - Foster Parent - Relative Caregiver Support, Fellowship Hall from 6 – 8 PM

April 27 - WICC Sale Drop Off – Fellowship Hall from 9a - Noon

April 28 - April Adventure Lunch, Fellowship Hall at 11:30a

April 28 - Iben Series Concert – Claire Happel Ashe, Harpist at 4 PM

Looking Ahead

May 1 - MBRA Banquet – Monthly Meeting, Fellowship Hall from 7-9p

May 4 - Sally Fitch Funeral Service, Visitation 10a; Funeral 10:30-11:30a

May 5 - Violin and Viola Recital from 1-4p

May 13 - Greenway Monthly Meeting, Parlor at 7p

May 20-31 – WICC Sale Set Up - Fellowship Hall, Parish House Foyer, Library; Time – As Needed

May 30 - Foster Parent - Relative Caregiver Support, Fellowship Hall from 6 – 8 PM

June 1 - WICC Sale Drop Off – Fellowship Hall from 9a - Noon

June 2 - 7 - BACH FEST

June 8 - WICC Sale, Parish Hall from 8a-3p

April Birthdays

2	Marian Borders	17	Gina O'Neill-Hawkins
4	Suellen Kirkwood	24	Mark Matuszak
16	Janet Kelley	26	Ben Willadsen

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God's Restoring Justice

Author and minister Dominique DuBois Gilliard identifies the relational emphasis of God's justice:

Restorative justice aligns with the heart of God. It supports that justice is primarily relational rather than individual. In the Old Testament, justice and sin were both relational realities, and justice was not about upholding individual rights but protecting the well-being of communities....

This rightness of relationships on every level is known as shalom, which is juxtaposed to the state's understanding of justice. Shalom calls Christians to view and pursue justice in light of God's original intent. It summons us to live within the confines of covenantal community, where we actively pursue communal flourishing, consider the interests of others (particularly "the least of these"), and prioritize the restoration of righteous relationships in the face of harm. Crime is never merely an individual breaking the law; it is always a communal transgression that fractures shalom.

God's justice is restorative and reconciling as opposed to retributive and isolating. Our criminal justice system quarantines people who cause harm, which subsequently harms them through punitive measures and dehumanizing conditions. Theologically, restorative justice acknowledges that divine justice entails people being reconciled to God, each other, the community, and themselves....

God's justice moves toward restoration, reintegration, and redemption. God's justice is inherently connected to healing the harmed, restoring what has been lost, and reconciling those who are estranged from God and community. God's heart and justice are inherently restorative.

Restorative justice gives shape to a communal ethic that is conciliatory in spirit and just in nature. It provides a structure for conflict resolution that facilitates truth telling, accountability, forgiveness, and restitution. The restorative nature of God's justice is woven throughout Scripture. Divine justice induces relational rightness between hostile parties, the holistic reintegration of exiled individuals, and economic and systemic restitution in the face of harm. Throughout Scripture, God works amid brokenness, restoring victims, communities, and offenders.

From: <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/communal-restoration-2023-08-23/>

Note of Condolence

Please keep the Fitch and Helfrich families in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve the loss of Sally and Norma.

April Adventures

Please remember that our worship time has changed to 10:30 AM. Come early for coffee!

Coinciding with our April Adventures and the service time change, the committee is hosting a series of free luncheons following the service to promote community among us. The "Lunch Bunch" will be catered and hosted by committee members. Each of the four weeks in April will be around a theme and feature brief comments about the theme. The April 21st theme is "Women's Fellowship Opportunities." We hope you can stay and enjoy one another's friendship around a bit of food.

No reservations are allowed.

We want future generations to join us in making Westminster their spiritual home.