

# March 2020

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Lucille McKenzie 3/01  
Tom Stocks 3/02  
Vince Manion 3/02  
Annabelle Marwitz 3/04  
Steve Halberg 3/04  
Mike Wilson 3/05  
Leone Burger 3/05  
Audrey Ukropina 3/06  
Marie Nelson 3/06  
Angi Trent 3/08  
Brooke Irvin 3/08  
Miriam Aiken 3/11  
Roxanna Trejo 3/11  
Joanne Porter 3/13  
Jan VanLente 3/14  
Arlis Wozniak 3/18  
Everett Dormer 3/18  
Doug Schaaf 3/22  
Mary Mills 3/24  
Bob Mack 3/27  
Keyte Hladky 3/27  
Rebecca Hazen 3/28  
Nancy McKaughan 3/28  
Bryan Wickman 3/30  
Cathy Martz 3/30  
John Dinsmore 3/30

## From the Pastor:

**Hello Friends,**

**This week, the book of Acts is on my mind, as I prepare for the first meeting of our mid-week Bible study. I've mentioned before that I chose this book of the Bible because it's one in which we can find our lives, as we read about the early Christians and their attempts to be followers of Jesus.**

**As I prepared the study, I was struck with how closely the book of Acts parallels the Gospel of Luke. In a way, this isn't too surprising as they were both written by Luke. However, when you really slow down and look at the details, it's remarkable how many close parallels there are in the texts.**

**In both the Gospel of Luke and in Acts, God promises a gift (Luke 1:26, Acts 1:4). Luke tells us that the birth of Jesus is of God (Luke 1:21). In Acts we read that the birth of the church is of God (Acts 2:1). Luke tells us that the ministry of Jesus begins with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21). Acts tells us that the church begins with the Spirit (Acts 2:1).**

**In Luke, Jesus reaches out to Jews and Gentiles and heals by the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:18). In Acts, the church reaches out to Jews and Gentiles and heals by the power of Jesus Christ (Acts 3:6). We learn in Luke that Jesus' enemies can't defeat him (Luke 24:7), and Acts tells us the church's enemies can't defeat it (Acts 5:35).**

**Near the end of Luke, Jesus is bound and tried (Luke 23:1), and near the end of Acts, Paul is bound and tried (Acts 24:1). When we really examine Luke and Acts side by side, we can't fail to find the central message of Acts, which is that the church is carrying the ministry of Jesus out into the world.**

**As we begin our Lenten journey, I pray that we will all remember that the ministry of Jesus is alive in the church in a special way. Lent is obviously a time of reflection, penitence and confession. Sometimes, an awareness of our sin can be almost too much to carry. However, as we are reminded of the ongoing presence of Jesus Christ in the church, we can remember that we will always have help in bearing that weight.**

**Peace,  
-David**

## Palm Sunday

April 5<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday Processional. All Children and Youth are welcomed to participate. Meet in the Youth Room at 9:30am for yummy donuts and to get your palm leaves.



### A Bell Is Not a Bell - - - until you ring it!

A building manager I have worked with often says to me, "I got the little bodies out of their boxes". He says it with good humor and he actually has a point. I also believe that a gift is not really a complete gift until it is received. We have these lovely hand bell instruments given to us by former members of the church. They need to be rung in order to make the memorial gifts complete and meaningful. We cannot let them lie in their boxes. Let's appreciate them, love them, use them. Consider ringing out the joy with which they came to us. Donna Snyder, 541-681-9247 dsnyderh2o@gmail.com

### Westminster Women's Potluck Celebrate the Gifts of Women

Westminster Women, we are having a special event on March 8th from 4:00-5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be "Celebrating the Gifts of Women". WE want to see each one of our WPC Women and hope that you will invite some of your friends as well. This will be an appetizer potluck - so bring your favorite sweet or savory appetizer to share.

Join us as four women from WPC share their gifts/talents. Each will share their story with us as a group but there will also be a time for some one on one questions as you go to their tables and see their creative art. Nan Helsabeck will share her love of Knitting, Ada Weeks will share her love of Silk Ribbon Embroidery, Gwen Childs will share her love of Pottery and Judy Coats will share her love of Quilting. Karen Young will give us a devotional after this to inspire us through God's Word how we might share our gifts/talents with others.

During this event and for the next year, Westminster Women will take up a "LEAST COIN OFFERING". Clean out your change in your cars, desk tops, dresser drawers and purses. This money collected will go towards the Fellowship of the Least Coin which supports mission giving with our brothers and sisters around the globe. Fellowship of the Least Coin links prayer and "least coins" in a special way, as the least coin becomes the symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. So mark your calendars Westminster Women, you will not want to miss this fun event.

### "What Life Is Like, in Christ and in Church: Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon."

A Bible Class, Sundays after Worship, March 1-April 26. Led by Jack Maddex.

"Colossians and Ephesians are Bible gems of expression about what it's like to live "in Christ" and in his body, the church. Colossians is more a Christ-focused congregational letter, and Ephesians is more a church-focused essay. Both move from beatific visions of overarching theological realities to guidance for living in mucky social realities. Philemon is a personal-guidance letter written apparently in the same situation as the others. In searching these letters together, we'll seek to learn how, by God's power and grace, to connect the ideal and the practical."

## Lent, Climate Change, and Living into Hope

In Lent, we slow down and consider how we as individuals and as the church are called to confront brokenness and suffering in all of creation. Over time, some of our collective choices have led to a changing global climate, with effects that often injure impoverished and vulnerable communities first and most deeply. PCUSA has a strong history of lifting up God's most vulnerable, and in 2006, our General Assembly passed a policy about becoming carbon neutral. While not all Presbyterians have the same passion around climate change, we all want to help sustain a healthy world with clean air and clean water for everyone. Westminster has already upped the game of its beautiful 1952 building by adding insulation, changing to LED lighting, and installing solar panels, and we can do more!- During Lent, Creation Care Ministry, with Session approval, is undertaking to measure our carbon footprint using an online calculator. This has been used by many churches and will give us a benchmark when considering ideas for future improvements. You can help by completing a two-question check-box survey about travel to and from church. It takes less than one minute and is anonymous and voluntary. Answer it on paper in the narthex after worship during the first two Sundays in Lent. Let's do this together! The more surveys completed, the more accurate our benchmark. Creation Care Ministry's regular members are happy to chat with you, too: Kyle Coates, Arlen and Pat Salthouse, Marian Little, Bob Sanders, Jan Van Lente, Karen and Roger Keady, Sue Oja, and Don Hirst.

## Ordination Anniversary for Rev. John Mahon

2020 is the 45th anniversary for Rev. Dr. John Mahon's ordination into the ministry. He received his Doctor of Religion degree from the School of Theology at Claremont in 1974 and was ordained as a hospital chaplain at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, California in 1975. He began over 30 years in the parish as Associate Pastor at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Modesto, California and then came to Oregon as Pastor of Clatskanie Presbyterian Church from 1978-1987. He had the special experience of a call as organizing pastor for a new church development in St. George, Utah and served as Pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church for 13 years. It was a radical change from Oregon in both climate and culture and he was an active representative of the Presbyterian Church in the community. John returned to Oregon in 2000 as co-executive Presbyter for the Central Region based in Eugene and remained here after retiring in 2014. He has continued in ministry through preaching and teaching at Westminster and other local churches. In retirement he has been active in Emerald Empire Kiwanis and has made special guest appearances as varied characters in our Vacation Bible School. This is also the year that John and Peggy will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

We at Westminster have appreciated having John with us and his sharing of his expertise and knowledge of church and Biblical subjects and look forward to continued association in the future.

## First Place

The Mission Commission is looking for an interested person to be the liaison for First Place Family Center, an agency of St. Vincent dePaul.

First Place Family provides services and support for homeless families as well as families in transition between homes. The liaison would be a contact for the agency in Westminster's local mission activities.

Anyone interested, please contact Martha deBroekert or Karen Keady, Mission Elders.

Remember the Dalit schoolchildren. As members of the untouchable cast in India they do not receive a public school education. Witnessing Ministries of Christ is a US organization that has sponsored the development of the Exodus Presbyterian Church that serves the Dalit people in northern India and a school system for a limited number of Dalit children. The Exodus Church has recently become financially independent of overseas donations. The school system, first through twelfth grades, is very much a work in progress and requires outside support to continue their work. With very limited resources Dalit families find it difficult to come up with the cash to send a child to school. As you might expect, the schools provide children with basic social skills as well as an inestimable boost in self-confidence. You can sponsor a Dalit child for a year's education at \$45 a month, or \$540 per year. For donation envelopes contact the church office or Larry McKaughan, a member of the WPC Missions Committee.



## **YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:**

March 15: Youth Group at 5:30 pm in the Youth Room.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE:**

March 8: Confirmation Class 7 starts right after Worship in the Youth Room until 1:00pm.

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**Instagram:**

@westminsterpres\_eugene



We're on the Web!

<https://wpceugene.org>

**REMINDER:**

**The 3rd SUNDAY of each month is our SHOPPING CART SUNDAY for: LOCAL SCHOOL BANKS**

**Please remember to bring in your canned and boxed food items. Every donation is very much appreciated !**



**Westminster's Youth collected 332 cans of food and over \$212 in cash for the Souper Bowl of Caring which took place on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2020. Thanks to all who donated to make this our best collection year yet.**



**SAVE THE DATE: Westminster's Vacation Bible School will be July 20-24<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer to make this year the best yet, please notify Brooke or Marta.**

