

September 2018

From the Pastor:

THANK YOU Westminster Family!

You have heard me talking non-stop about Vacation Bible School since late spring and I just wanted to take a few minutes to say thank you. From your prayers, to volunteering, to your generosity of spirit, time and gifts, to donating supplies and everything in between, this year's Vacation Bible School was truly wonderful. I can honestly say that each and every child and volunteer who walked in the doors of our church that week were blessed beyond measure. God is doing big things!

Vacation Bible School gives God the opportunity to work through countless volunteers to teach children about God and God's promises to us all. I am amazed each and every year to see what we can accomplish in just 15 short hours. We must never forget the importance of giving the gift of VBS to our children. They learn Bible Stories and theological messages that will continue to be with them as they grow up. You never know when something from Vacation Bible School may come back to a child months, years or even decades later. How many of us can still recall songs we learned or teachers that cared and thus in turn taught us about God's love for us?

In our ever changing cultural/religious landscape, children do not attend weekly Sunday School or worship as regularly as they once did. We all know the benefits of regular church and Christian Education for our children, but in today's world, regular attendance is just not the norm. I would argue that ministries like Vacation Bible School are more important now than they ever have been. VBS may be the only week that we reach some children and are able to share the Good News with them. We never know what seeds God may be planting. And even for our children who do attend church more regularly, Vacation Bible School gives them a safe space where they can come together with other children and adults that care. They have time where they can study God's word and reflect upon what that means in their daily lives.

We had some deep discussions this year about fears and worries that both adults and children carry and how we can come to depend on God to be with us and help us. Sometimes we adults get so wrapped up with our own "stuff" that we forget even the youngest among us are struggling. VBS week reminded us all that our youngest members struggle with the evil and suffering of the world, too. But for all of us, whether old or young, we can all take heart that when we struggle, when we do wrong, when we worry, when we are powerless and when we are lonely...JESUS RESCUES!

Thank you for being a part of the Good News! -Marta Ukropina



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Dirk deBroekert 9/04
Edna DeHaven 9/04
Peggy Mahon 9/05
Eric Ukropina 9/06
Katie Marwitz 9/06
Josie Johnson 9/09
Robin Burk 9/10
Jim Williams 9/12
Cindy Ryder 9/13
Lezlie Pearce-Hooper 9/15
Barbara McCorkle 9/17
Paula Salerno 9/18
Bob Eggert 9/18
Chad Cooper 9/19
Gail Schwieger 9/19
Laurie Rowe 9/20
Jim Mitchelmore 9/20
Shirley Fulps 9/20
Catherine York 9/21
Mike Bagaason 9/25
Richard Reinking 9/25
Jim Lehl 9/26
Chris Barr 9/27
Bonnie Williams 9/27
Ann Miller 9/28
Paula Jameson 9/28

PRESBYTERIAN 101

Starting on **Sunday, September 9** and going for **four weeks**, David Ukropina will be offering a class for people who are interested in learning more about the Presbyterian denomination. We will talk a little bit about Presbyterian history, theology, worship and church government, and also include a brief history about Westminster.

Visitors and newer members are especially encouraged to come and take part, and long-time members are welcome as well. There will be some lecture, but also time for discussion and questions.

We will meet in the **Meeting Room around 11:15 each Sunday**, and try to finish by noon. **Come and take part!**

MESSAGE FROM BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

If you have a key fob that gives you access to the church, please bring it in for an annual servicing and check-in **BY October 1st** to ensure you will still be granted access. Thanks!

MESSAGE FROM THE SALTHOUSE'S:

Our daughter, Clare and I want to thank the congregation for their prayers, cards and calls for our recent surgeries. Please continue to pray for us as we recover. Thank you.

Sincerely, Pat Salthouse

SMALL GROUP BY REBECCA HAZEN

A SMALL GROUP starts **Wednesday Sept. 12th at 5:30 pm** until 6:45 pm in the "Book Sale" room at the end of the Fellowship Hall. We'll bring brown bag suppers if we have to come straight from work and meet every week as we work through a journaling book called **THE WORK OF LOVE: RE-DISCOVERY OF CONNECTION AND BELONGING**. The first question we'll answer is "What is violence?". The second, "What different types of violence are there?" "What is abuse?" "When have I experienced it?" "What is neglect?" "Recall a time when I felt neglected" and it goes on from there, journaling in the work book with answers from inside of ourselves, and in the safety of a small group facilitated by Rebecca Hazen, we share our stories.....and move on to other questions like "How would it feel for me to live in a world at peace?" The sub-title on the front of the workbook is "Underneath the violence is a deep, wrenching, painful, un-processed grief for needs that were not met. Underneath the love is a deep, vulnerable abandonment of ourselves into the grace of others we trust." Come give this a try and see if you want to do some spiritual work. The minimum request for participation in this group is to bring a prayer concern each week that we all can pray for with you, and also to report answered prayers so we all can say "Thank you, God!"

ANNUAL CORN FEED

Sunday, September 9th at 5:30 pm

The Men's Breakfast Group is holding Our Annual Corn feed for the entire congregation. Save the date and plan for your entire family to come and enjoy farm fresh corn, hamburgers and good salads. The corn comes from a local farm which will be freshly picked that morning. This is an enjoyable, casual dinner event for everyone! Don't miss it!



WELCOME BACK NAN!

WELCOME BACK, Nan Helsabeck, from a much needed foot surgery medical leave. Your music ministry is a treasured part of the WPC worship services, and the WPC family so appreciates your consistent, heartfelt, diverse, and talented musical contributions.



Psalm 33:

“Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
For praise from the upright is Beautiful.
Praise the Lord with the harp;
Make melody to Him with an
Instrument of ten strings.
Sing to Him a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

**MEET YOUR
DEACON
SUNDAY!

SUNDAY,

SEPTEMBER
30th

Join us at
Fellowship
Hour to meet
your Deacon**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

September 9th, please have your child(ren) bring their school back packs for a traditional blessing of the backpacks as we prepare our families to return to school. Let’s remind our kids that God is constantly with them to guide them and help them gain all the knowlegde they could and make new friendships.



Blessing
of the Backpacks

Support for Aging Families is a support group for individuals dealing with issues related to aging. We share ideas and provide encouragement when facing challenges. Shared experiences and laughter can really help!

The group will meet on September 6th and 20th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend!

Dr. Karen Young is a new resident to Eugene and the Westminster family. She is a retiring neuropsychiatrist, whose specialty was treating patients with various cognitive and mood behavioral problems due to CNS damage from trauma or a dementing illness. She has an extensive history of community education speaking in Arkansas on the subject. She believes that caring for caregivers is as important as caring for the patient and that education and support are important for the affected families. Karen will come to our Sept. 20th meeting.

REMINDER:

*Every 3rd SUNDAY is
our SHOPPING
CART SUNDAY for:
FOOD FOR LANE
COUNTY*

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

The Eco-Justice Team of the Presbytery Presents an Outdoor Educational Event at Cascade Locks,
Columbia River

Celebrating Culture and Caring for Nature

Saturday, September 22, 2018—9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Experts/Presenters include Jefferson Greene, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Peter Cornelison, Friends of the Gorge; Holly Hallman, Presbyterians for Earth Care; Kathryn “Kat” Brigham, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Tickets: 12 and up \$40 (limit 5 per church), 12 and under \$15 (limit 3) For more information contact Barry McPherson, bdmcperson@coho.net, (503) 708-8688; or Jenny Holmes jehrestore@gmail.com. To register and pay: <http://www.cascadespresbytery.org/events/spirit-of-the-river/>

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