



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

February 19, 2017
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary



But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 5:44-45

Welcome to this Place of Christian Worship

Do not wait for someone else to begin worship. Pray silently for yourself, for those about you, for the poor and the oppressed, for those unable to be present, for those who will shortly lead our common worship. Latecomers may enter the Sanctuary during the singing of the first hymn or during the Response to the Assurance. Ushers are available for assistance. Please turn off all cell phones.

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Order of Worship

Opening Voluntary and Introit

Cantata, BWV 19

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

I. Chorus

*Es erhuh sich ein Streit.
Die rasende Schlange, der höllische Drache
stürmt wider den Himmel mit wüthender Rache.
Aber Michael bezwingt,
und die Schar, die ihn umringt,
stürzt des Satans Grausamkeit.*

A battle began.
The raging serpent, the dragon of Hell,
storms against Heaven in furious revenge.
But Michael conquers,
and the throng which surrounds him
casts down the fierceness of Satan.

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn that follows.

Hymn in Procession, No. 416

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Call to Confession

Cantor:



Be with us now, O Lord, qui-et us, cen-ter us, hear us.

Congregation:



O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. When we call, an - swer us.



O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. Come and lis-ten to us.

Prayer Of Confession

**Holy God, your law shows the way of righteousness,
but we forsake your commandments.
We have not provided for the poor or aided the disabled.
We have not been truthful in our daily business;
we have been unjust in our judgment of others.
We have sought vengeance against our enemies;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us our sins and rouse us to sincere repentance.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
free us to live as your holy people with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Time for silent prayer

Kyrie

The people sing.

John Weaver (1984)



Assurance of Pardon

Response

GLORIA PATRI

The people stand to sing.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to your neighbor and share the peace of Christ. It is appropriate to say, "The peace of Christ be with you," and to respond, "And also with you." The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21).

What's more, in the midst of divisions we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs (Eph. 2:14-21).

Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God's call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

The Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today to Bryson William Charlier, son of Sarah and Alain Charlier

The following prayers are said in unison when indicated by the leader:

O God, who called us from death to life: we give ourselves to you, and, with the church through all the ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God: remind us of the promises given in our own baptism, and renew our trust in you.

Make us strong to obey your will, and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The people remain seated to sing

Baptism Hymn 497, Stanza 4

ST. CLEMENT

**Accept, O Lord, our dedication to fill with love the growing mind,
that in this church and congregation the young a faith for life may find.**

At this time, parents may decide to have their children 3 years and older leave with their teachers.

When the children leave, please make sure they take their belongings with them.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Leviticus 19:1-2

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

II. Recitative (bass)

*Gott Lob! Der Drache liegt,
Der unerschaffne Michael
und seiner Engel Schar hat ihn besiegt;
dort liegt er in der Finsternis
mit Ketten angebunden,
und seine Stätte wird nicht mehr
im Himmelreich gefunden.
Wir stehen sicher und gewiss,
und wenn uns gleich sein
Brüllen schreckt,
so wird doch unser Leib und Seel'
von Engeln wohl gedeckt.*

Praise be to God! The dragon lies low.
The uncreated Michael
and the host of his angels
have overthrown him;
there he lies in darkness,
bound with chains,
and his place shall be found no more
in the kingdom of Heaven.
We stand safe and secure,
and even if his roaring frightens us,
still our body and soul
will be well protected by angels.

III. Aria (soprano)

*Gott schickt uns seine Heere zu;
wir stehen oder gehen,
so können wir in sichrer Ruh
für unsern Feinden stehen.
Es lagert sich, so nah als fern,
um uns der Engel unsers Herrn
mit Feuer, Ross und Wagen.*

God sends to us His hosts;
whether we are standing still or moving,
we can face our enemies
in a firm and calm stance.
The angel of our Lord encamps
all around us, both near and far,
with fire, horse and chariot.

Sermon

The Sermon on the Mount: Outrageous Love

Hymn, No. 358

Help Us Accept Each Other
The people stand to sing.

BARONITA

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

The Deacons receive the gifts, a portion of the blessings God has given us, which we return unto God.

IV. Recitative (tenor)

*Was ist der schwache Mensch, das Erdenkind?
Ein Wurm, ein armer Sünder.
Schaut, wie ihn selbst der Herr so lieb gewinnt,
dass er ihn nicht zu niedrig schätzt;
und ihm die Himmelskinder,
der Seraphinen Heer
zu seiner Macht und Gegenwehr,
zu seinem Schutze setzt.*

What is a powerless human being? What is the child of earth?
A worm, a poor sinner.
Behold how the Lord Himself comes to care for him so much,
that He does not consider him too lowly;
and He appoints for him the children of Heaven,
the host of seraphim,
to be his strength, defense,
and protection.

V. Aria (tenor)

*Bleibt, ihr Engel, bleibt bei mir!
Führet mich auf beiden Seiten,
dass mein Fuss nicht möge gleiten,
aber lehrt mich auch allhier
euer grosses Heilig singen,
und dem Höchsten Dank zu bringen.*

Stay, you angels, stay with me!
Guide me on both sides,
so that my foot may not slip,
but also teach me here
to sing your great “Holy, Holy”,
and to give thanks to the Most High.

Prayer of Dedication

**Almighty God,
by your grace, accept our offering.
Make us joyful in giving
that we may grow in likeness
to your supreme gift,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Sending Hymn, No. 371

Lift High the Cross
The people stand to sing.

CRUCIFER

Benediction and Choral Response

VI. Recitative (soprano)

*Lasst uns das Angesicht
der frommen Engel lieben
und sie mit unsern Sünden nicht
vertreiben oder auch betrüben,
so seien sie, wenn der Herr gebeut,
der Welt Valet zu sagen,
zu unserer Seligkeit
auch unser Himmelswagen.*

Let us love the countenance
of the holy angels,
and neither drive them away
nor grieve them with our sins.
And so, when the Lord
bids us say farewell to the world,
may they also be our heavenly chariots
to our blessedness.

VII. Chorale

*Lass dein' Engel mit mir fahren
auf Elias' Wagen rot,
und mein' Seele wohl bewahren
wie Lazarum nach seinem Tod.
Lass sie ruh'n in deinem Schoss,
erfüll' sie mit Freud und Trost,
bis der Leib kommt aus der Erde
und mit ihr vereinigt werde.*

Let Your angels travel with me
on Elijah's red chariot of fire,
and safeguard my soul
like Lazarus after he had died.
Let it rest in Your bosom,
fill it with joy and consolation,
until the body comes forth from the earth
to be united with it.

Immediately following worship, please join us at Meet & Mingle in the Holmes Room for refreshments and fellowship

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor
John Heer, Liturgist
Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries
Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar

Violins:
Doug Cone
Emily Greetham

Viola:
Matt Cone

Cello:
Katie Weissman

Trumpets:
Matt Miraglia
Rich Reiderer
Stephen Budnack

Timpani:
Larry Dubill

Harpsichord:
Brian Glikes

The Westminster Schola
Nancy Van Baak
Justin Burr*
Kaitlyn Dykstra
Jenece Gerber
Lucia Helgren*
Hillary Hunt
Nick John
James Judd*

Brian Page
Max Pipinich
Hannah Taylor
Victor Schuel
Steven Schaefer
Veronica Shanchuk
Rob Szusztak

*Soloists

Special thanks to Nancy Van Baak and Martin Werner for texts and translations

Deacons Serving Today

Russell Braun, Patty Charlier, Mary Dimock, Doug Fabian, Kathleen Kelly, Johnpatrick Marr, Jo Stevens, Roy Stewart

Chancel Flowers

The flowers at the Lord's Table are given by Claude Welch and Jeannette Ludwig in honor of Claude, Phyliss and Nancy Welch.

If you would like to purchase Sunday flowers in honor/memory of family or friends, there is a monthly sign up on the kiosk in the Gallery Room. You may also call Sue Adams at 883-7597 or email hugwalker1@gmail.com

Notes on Today's Music

The story of St. Michael's struggle with Satan as related in Revelation has always been associated with the plague and the battles of mankind against disease. As early as the fourth century Michael had been called upon to save Roman citizens from the plague. Particularly in plague-ridden Italy this story and the birthday of St Michael (Sept 29) have been prominently celebrated. In Leipzig Michaelmass was always celebrated by Bach with the largest available orchestra and great grandeur. All of the complete Michaelmass cantatas call for trumpets and drums in addition to the usual strings. Our cantata today is from the third Leipzig cycle. The telling of the battle in heaven begins immediately with no orchestral introduction. The vaulting high-energy fugue theme is the perfect illustration of the heroic struggle. In the B section the trumpets continue to thunder but the chorus assumes a shouting homophonic texture.

The militaristic reading from Revelation has for some reason always been paired with the gentle Gospel reading from Matthew about valuing the lives of children. Certainly there is something childlike about the story of Michael, but also it teaches us to protect the most vulnerable in our society. After a bass recitative that describes Michael's victory, the gentle soprano aria with two violins refers to Mahanaim, the place where Jacob first met the angels and from then on associated as the place where angels gather on earth.

As great as the music in this cantata is up to this point, and it is one of the best in the whole canon, nothing prepares us for the breathtaking beauty and sadness of the heartbreaking tenor aria. Here the tenor begs the angels to stay. The form is the baroque dance, the Scilliano. Bach, and particularly Handel, wrote many great Scilliani but this is the mightiest and most personal of all. Over the gentle haunting melody, the trumpet intones one of the greatest chorales "Herzlich lieb" Careful reading of the implied text of the third verse, which is the one that Bach obviously wants his congregation to hear in their heads, shows how precisely the character and emotional weight of the aria is determined by this unsung text. Bach wrote many works about angels, but never before or since did he achieve this level of profundity. After a soprano recitative Bach closes with a grand setting of "Freu dich sehr" using again the trumpets from the first movement.

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PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship: 8:15AM in the Holmes Chapel with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and 10:30AM in the Sanctuary

February 26 - Transfiguration Sunday

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, *Glimpses of Glory*; Matthew 17:1-9

February 26

Choral Evensong, 4:00PM

The Westminster Choirs and St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir

St. Joseph's Cathedral, 50 Franklin St, Buffalo, NY 14202

Prelude Recital at 3:30PM

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, February 19

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care

8:00 AM Senior Choristers

8:15 AM Worship/Communion

9:00 AM Adult Bible Class

9:00 AM Case Library Conversations/
Spiritual Life

9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds

9:15 AM Confirmation Class

9:30 AM Dialogue Diner

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship/Baptism

11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

Monday, February 20

7:00 AM WECP & WPC Closed
for President's Day

Tuesday, February 21

7:15 AM Wake Up Group

9:00 AM Management Meeting

4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal

5:00 PM WOW Retreat Debrief

6:00 PM Zen Dharma

7:00 PM WECP Parent Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 22

9:30 AM Worship Planning Meeting

12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline

12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline

1:30 PM Staff Meeting

4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal

5:30 PM Pathways To Peace

6:00 PM Choir School Evensong

6:30 PM Session Meeting

8:00 PM AA Meeting

Thursday, February 23

7:15 AM Wake Up Group

7:30 AM Budget & Finance Meeting

8:30 AM Centering Prayer

4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal

6:00 PM Handbells

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 25

8:00 AM Reserved for Garrett

10:00 AM What do I believe?

Sunday, February 26

8:00 AM Middler Trip

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care

8:00 AM Senior Choristers

8:15 AM Worship/Communion

9:00 AM Adult Bible Class

9:00 AM Case Library Conversations

9:00 AM Spiritual Life

9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds

9:15 AM Confirmation Class

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:30 AM Dialogue Diner

10:30 AM Worship

News & Notes

We invite members and visitors to sign the friendship/registration pad as it is passed during the service. Please indicate if you would like information sent to you or request a call from the pastor.

As a More Light church, we invite all persons of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community to membership and full participation in worship, leadership, service opportunities, and all ministries of Westminster.

We light our peace candle remembering those relatives of Westminster members and all who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our prayers for peace include our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and families.

Bibles are available at the Sanctuary entrances.

Wireless Receivers for hearing assistance are available in the Church Conference Room.

If you need assistance, please ask any Deacon.

MISSION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ENERGY is always in need of plastic folders, spiral note books, notebook paper, pink erasers, dry erase markers, black Sharpie markers, glue sticks, white glue, and Crayola watercolor sets. Additionally, ENERGY can use sturdy paper plates, 7 oz. cups, napkins, plastic forks, cake mix, and frosting cans. Donations may be left on the kitchen counter in the basement ENERGY rooms.

Visit The West Side Bazaar, 25 Grant Street, for lunch and shopping.

Westminster's Alcohol and Drug Education and Referral service has been working quietly and steadily since 1981 to help members and friends with any questions they may have about alcohol or other drugs. Call any of us for free and confidential advice. Phil Stevens, Chair 839-3357; Dave Carstensen 884-5403, Jane Morris 571-481-1839, Ellen Smith 882-2064, Elizabeth Stewart, 585-217-7878, Jim Wieland 523-0217.

Westminster can provide a simple meal for those in need. If you are a member recovering from an illness/surgery, a caregiver with an ill family member, or have had a new baby, please contact Jamie at 884-9437, ext. 326 or email jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org

CHILDCARE AT WESTMINSTER

Childcare for children 5 years old and younger is available from 8:30AM to 11:30AM in the WECP (school) building.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT WESTMINSTER

- Our preschool class meets in the WECP building. After *Time with Children*, children 3-5 year olds leave with their teachers, "Miss Debby" and "Mr. Chris" LaMendola and walk to the building together. In cold weather, the children need their coats. After worship, the children and their teachers meet together in the Holmes Room.
- 1st - 4th grade classes: Meet each Sunday with their teachers in the 1st Parish Hall Classroom.
- 5th -7th grade class meets each Sunday with their teacher Carol Timmerman-Yorty in the 2nd Parish Hall classroom
- Our confirmation class is made up of 8th graders. They meet one-on-one with their mentor until their class begins in January when they meet each Sunday from 9:15AM to 10:15AM in the classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.
- Our Senior Highs, 9th-12th graders, meet each Sunday at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialogue Diner.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR SCHOOL

The Senior Choristers, ages 12-18, rehearse Tuesday, 4:30PM to 5:30PM, Wednesday, 4:30PM - 6:30PM, and Thursday, 4:30PM - 5:30PM. At 6PM, on Wednesdays, the choristers sing Choral Evensong in the Holmes Chapel, open to everyone. *The Junior Choristers*, ages 7-11, rehearse simultaneously, joining the Senior Choristers for the service of Choral Evensong at 6 PM.

The Apprentice Choristers, ages 4-6, rehearse each Sunday through May 21st, during the 10:30AM Sunday School in the Holmes Chapel. The Apprentice Choristers are taught fundamental music and choral skills, with the assistance of Dr. Val Cooley and Mrs. Julie Zenger.

Participation in the programs is not limited to Westminster members; all are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org 884.9437 ext. 318.

BECOME A PART OF OUR LIFE

Anyone who would like to learn more about our community and the many ministries we support is invited to attend a meeting immediately following worship. Our next dates are **March 26 and May 21**, at 12PM. The Rev. Thomas Yorty, Pastor of Westminster, will tell the story of our church along with the current programs of outreach and mission in the city and region. There will be time for conversation and an opportunity to get answers to any questions you may have. Light, healthy refreshments will be served. At the conclusion of the meeting, those who so desire will be received into the membership of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Yorty, tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org or 830-8596, Karen Keaton, khkeaton@verizon.net or any staff member.

SUNDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Bible Study

9:00AM - 10:15AM first classroom on the Parish Hall Balcony

Join our continuing conversation as we explore the Sunday scripture passages. This discussion moves from what the biblical passage means to what this passage might mean in our lives. Our class is led by Debbie Katz and other class members. Our curriculum is *Feasting on the Word*. Please come to these classes as your schedule permits.

Case Library Conversation Series and Spiritual Life present The 16th Annual Understanding Islam Series, February 19

Sunday, 9AM to 10:15AM in the Case Library

February 19:

Protecting Religious Freedom and Immigrants in a Trump Era

Speakers: Dr. Yorty and Dr. Khalid Qazi, President, Muslim Public Affairs Council of WNY

Issues such as religious freedom and immigration could have an important impact on our law abiding American Muslim Community. There has even been discussion of a "Muslim Register" by some Trump supporters.

February 26 - Getting Your Affairs in Order

Presenter: Robert Constantine, a long time Westminster member and attorney with extensive experience in Trust and Estate planning and administration, to gain important and valuable information about preparing for your financial and estate planning.

Robert will provide you with some basic organizational ideas and tools that will simplify what some of us see as a daunting task of getting our affairs in order as a part of our estate planning. We will discuss some of the basic elements of estate planning, demystifying the typical documents (what is a Will? What is a Trust?), explain the importance of having powers of attorney and health care documents, and answer all of your questions about these important topics.

Whether you are getting ready to sign your first Will or just reviewing the plan you already have in place, you will find valuable information and useful handouts at this session.

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Join us on March 7 for Rev. Tom Yorty's report on the 4-Congregation Trip to Israel. Lunch at 12:30PM, presentation at 1:15PM. Please sign up by February 26 in the Gallery Room if you will be having lunch, or RSVP to Jamie at 884-9437, ext. 326.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

We need your help in keeping our church records up-to-date. By doing so, we can ensure your family is kept informed about all that's happening at Westminster as we continue to design effective & interesting programming, provide timely Pastoral Care. Forms to update your information can be found on the Information Table in the Gallery Room.

WOW KNITTING GROUP

Our next meetings will be held on **Tuesday, February 28**. The group meets on various Tuesdays throughout the year from 7PM to 9PM and works on their individual projects as well as prayer shawls, scarves and other handmade items for members of the church. Beginners are welcome! Contact Fran Holmes: mfranholmes@verizon.net for more information and dates.

WESTMINSTER PRESENTS

Fridays at Westminster: Come for the music - Stay for lunch! Each Friday, local Buffalo artists present a 30 minute lunchtime recital in Westminster's Historic Sanctuary at noon. Lunch provided by a local food truck. Donations benefit the *Westminster Friends of Music*. **Our next concert will be March 3: David Snyder, organ**

Choral Evensong: Every Wednesday at 6PM in the Holmes Chapel. The Choristers of the Westminster Choir School lead this service showcasing repertoire they are studying.

Taizé Worship: March 17, April 21, and May 19 at 5:30 PM. Start your weekend with this evening service of calming prayer and meditation.

Choral Evensong: Sundays, March 12, and April 9 at 4:00 PM. The Westminster Choirs and visiting choirs present this service of Evening Prayer. Join us for an organ prelude recital at 3:30 PM.

Celebrate Fat Tuesday on Sunday, February 26 after the 10:30 AM service with a catered reception featuring signature New Orleans fare and music by Dr. Jazz and the Jazz Bugs.

Masterworks Service: Sunday, March 19 at 10:30 AM. The Westminster Choir and musicians from the Buffalo Philharmonic perform Bob Chilcott's *St. John Passion*, a dramatic retelling of the Passion story that combines thirteenth century English poetry with texts from the King James Bible.

MEET & MINGLE - FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Please join us in the Holmes Room immediately following the 10:30am worship service for a relaxed and inviting fellowship opportunity. *Meet & Mingle* offers beverages, light healthy snacks and provides a meaningful time of gathering and bonding for our congregation. Continue to stop by the *Heavenly Grounds Café* in the Oak Room which is open from 9AM to noon with coffee service until 10:30AM.

We need YOUR help! The new "Meet & Mingle" event after the 10:30AM church service is a great success! Thanks to everyone for participating! In order to keep it running successfully we are looking for YOU to help in one of the following ways:

1. Be a shopper – purchase the food from a list provided on a regular basis and bring to church for storage. Bring receipts for reimbursement.

2. Be a host for the week – each week we are looking for a different family to serve as the host. The hosts come early to church to make the punch and put the food on serving plates before the 10:30 service; also monitor the need to refill punch or food platters; and clean up dirty dishes, put unused food away, and take home tablecloths to be laundered and returned.

3. Be a sponsor – make a donation to WPC to cover the weekly costs. As you reflect on how you can best give of your time, talent and treasure, please contact Debby LaMendola (716-983-4993) and let her know how YOU can help!

This weeks hosts and sponsors are Laurel & Doug Braun

WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

Few Christians arrive at a set of beliefs that are then set in stone for the rest of their lives. What we believe often evolves through Bible study and worship services. Personal experiences--both joyous and traumatic--impact our faith. World events can shape what we believe about God's presence in the world and in our lives. Faith is an evolving experience that can define much of who we are and who we may become.

If you would enjoy exploring and discussing your faith and what you believe, mark your calendars now and plan on joining the "What Do I Believe: Naming and Nurturing our Faith" conversation. This group will meet Saturday mornings from 9:30AM to 12:30AM on February 25, 2017. We'll begin with coffee and bagels as we watch videos and discuss ideas from Ronald J. Allen's *A Faith of Your Own*. The purpose of this time together is to articulate and name what we believe.

The leaders of this invigorating six-part series are Debbie Katz and Jen Callaghan. To help with our preparation, if you are planning on coming to this series, please sign up on the information table or contact Debbie Katz at dkatz@wpcbuffalo.org.

WOW-WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Downton Abbey Tea, in the Case Library, Sunday, March 12th, immediately following the :a.m service. Draped in lace tablecloths, adorned with flowers and antique teacups, our library will be transformed to a Highclere Castle tearoom, missing only the Dowager Duchess, herself. An offering of soup, savory and sweet tea sandwiches, scones with Devonshire cream, dainty pastries and, of course, tea, will be served by Mrs. Patmore's helpers. (white gloves NOT mandatory!) Seating is limited! Sign up in the Gallery Room by March 5th. Cost: \$5 payable at the door.

WOW Lunchtime Bible Study meets the third Thursday of each month. in the Case Library. Join us each month and together we will explore some of the Bible's 800 references to water. . Come as your schedule permits. For more information, please contact: Debbie Katz, Director of Christian Education at dkatz@westminster-bfo.org or (716) 884-9437, ext. 329. Coffee and tea provided.

COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT

Sponsored by Buffalo Sunrise Rotary Club. Saturday June 17, 10am - 1pm at Westminster This service ensures safe and secure disposal of unneeded, outdated business and personal papers. The cost is \$10.00 per box (approx size 10"x12"x15") Rotarians will be on hand to assist with unloading boxes from your vehicle. For additional information about Rotary or this event call 716-479-8711 visit the Buffalo Sunrise Rotary Facebook page.

CELEBRATING OUR LOVE FOR WESTMINSTER!

Come join your friends on March 18th for a beautiful evening! A five-course gourmet dinner prepared and served lovingly by the staff of Westminster. The Case Library will be transformed into a fine dining experience.

- 6:30pm Champagne Reception in the Drawing (Oak) Room
- 7:30pm Dinner in the Case Library
- Dietary restrictions considered
- Piano Music provided by Garrett Martin and Matt Marco
- \$125.00 per person. Individuals, Groups and Couples encouraged
- RSVP by March 3, 2017

Visit www.wpcbuffalo.org to make your reservation online or use a reservation form available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. You may also call the church office-884-9437. This event will help to continue the important ministries of our church. Thank you for your support.

Worship in the Holmes Chapel - 8:15AM

*The Gathering is an opportunity for worshippers to greet one another and to share prayer concerns.
An offering plate has been placed on the Communion Table to receive your gifts.*

Chiming of the Trinity

The sounding of the chimes, invoking Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, is an invitation to prepare for worship through a time of silent reflection. Please be respectful of those who are praying.

Opening Voluntary

Holy Spirit, We Pray to Thee

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Hymn, No. 416

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, your law shows the way of righteousness,
but we forsake your commandments.
We have not provided for the poor or aided the disabled.
We have not been truthful in our daily business;
we have been unjust in our judgment of others.
We have sought vengeance against our enemies;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us our sins and rouse us to sincere repentance.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
free us to live as your holy people with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Silence is kept

Kyrie

The people sing.

John Weaver (1984)



Words of Assurance

Response

GLORIA PATRI

Stand to sing.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Leviticus 19:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; Matthew 5:38-48

Text can be found on page 4 of this bulletin.

Meditation

The Sermon on the Mount: Outrageous Love

Dr. Yorty

Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We will distribute the elements of communion today by intinction – simply take the bread and dip it in the cup. It is appropriate to say “Amen” or “Thanks be to God” when receiving the bread and the cup as they are gifts of God for the people of God.

Westminster Presbyterian Church serves only gluten and dairy-free bread in Communion. Please take the aisle nearest you to the communion station at the front of that aisle, and return to your seat by the same aisle.

Sending Hymn, No. 371

Lift High the Cross

The people stand to sing.

CRUCIFER

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Prelude in C major, BWV 553

attr. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor

Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar

GIVING 2017



Pledges received as of 02/15/17

| Number of Pledges Received | Total Pledges Received | Dollars to Goal |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 267 | \$531,000 | \$68,997 |

We ask that you prayerfully consider the blessings you have received and with a grateful heart return your pledge card with support for 2017. Your financial pledge will enable Westminster to continue our ministry as we strive to answer the Prayer of St. Francis to “Love, Comfort, Understand and Give” within our church home and our community. Pledge cards are available in the Holmes Room and you may return your pledge card by mail, make a pledge or a pledge payment on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving, or email Sawrie Becker, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org. Thank you for being a contributing member of this church as your pledge, in any amount, makes us a stronger congregation.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

724 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209 716-884-9437 www.wpcbuffalo.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor, tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 313

The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate, bhennessy@wpcbuffalo.org, 716-697-0919

Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries, gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 318

Brian Glikes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar, bglikes@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 357

Debbie Katz, Director of Christian Education, dkatz@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 329

Sawrie Becker, Director of Development, sbecker@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 315

Mark Aquino, Youth Coordinator, maquino@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 311

Lenore Neiler, Communications Coordinator, ineiler@wpcbuffalo.org, ext 302

Patricia Kelly, Director of Finance, pkelly@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 305

Matthew Marco, Assistant to the Pastor and to the Director of Music, mmarco@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 306

Jamie Adamczyk, Administrative Assistant, jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 326

Dr. Jenece Gerber, Composer-in-Residence and Associate Conductor

Westminster Early Childhood Programs

Dr. Cindy Lynn-Garbe, Director, clynn-garbe@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 328

Todd Bothwell, Associate Director of Admissions, tbothwell@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 330

Jessica Mitrovits, Development Associate, jmitrovits@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 332

Barbara Robinson, Administrative Assistant, brobinson@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 300

Facilities

Aaron Vivian, Facilities Supervisor, avivian@wpcbuffalo.org, ext. 319, 716-504-7308

Jeff Kaczmarek, Maintenance, ext. 319, 716-345-8013

Nolan Arroyo, Maintenance, 716-346-7670

Austin Becker, Maintenance, 716-479-0668