



Artwork Courtesy of John Montague

Join us in Welcoming our New Officers!

*We are thankful for
their willingness to
lead, and serve,
our congregation.*

On behalf of all members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Nominating Committee welcomes its new officers! At a Congregational meeting held in November, the following Elders and Deacons were elected to serve:

Elders:

Laurel Braun, John Heer,
Rebecca Montague, Peter McNally
and Ellie Seib.

Reelected Elders:

Bill Gray, Jack Jacobs, Ellen
Kennedy and Christ LaMendola.

Deacons:

Mary Dimock, Teddie Granville and
Donald Kitungano

Reelected Deacons:

Cameron Airhart, Shea Akers, Janet
Kifner-Arnatt, Florence Kilambok
Kalumbu and Rebecca Lukan.

During Sunday worship on February 12, our new officers will be installed. Please join us and take a few moments to introduce yourself and congratulate them. We are very grateful for the time and talents they provide to the life and ministries of our church.

Friday, January 13th, 7:30 PM ♦ Saturday, January 14th, 7:30 PM
Sunday, January 15th, 2:30 PM

Special School Performance, Friday, January 13th, 10:00 AM

(Call Matthew Marco at 884-9437 for details)

Tickets, \$20, are available at the door or at wpcbuffalo.org

Patron ticket, \$50

Patron ticket includes a reception following the performance on Friday, January 13th, featuring champagne, DiCamillo desserts, and a Meet and Greet with the cast.

Featuring:

Ian Torres as Amahl
Jessica Best as the Mother
James Judd as Kaspar
James Wright as Melchior (Fri. & Sat.)

Brandon Mecklenburg as Melchior (Sun.)

Nicholas Kilkenny as Balthazar
Shayne Jones as The Page

Directed by: James Wright

Conducted by: Matthew Marco

The Challenge and Opportunity of the New Year



Dear Westminster Members and Friends,

No better way to start a year – and a big year like 2017 promises to be – than in worship and with the Sacrament of Communion as we will do on January 1 at 10:30am in the sanctuary (for one service only).

I am re-reading, at the suggestion of Billy Collins, *Paradise Lost*. In this remarkable epic poem John Milton responded to the secular philosophers of his day who equated political freedom with the random colliding of atoms. Rather, the great Presbyterian political pundit and poet said, freedom is a matter of moral choice; choosing wisely is not a matter of chance. When the moral life of a nation is left to chance, chaos threatens to become the arbiter that governs. Milton knew of what he spoke given his role in the politics of his time, coming close, as he did, to being drawn and quartered by the Royalists.

The 17th century bard makes a point for a 21st century church and citizens of a free society. As one commentator said recently, our democracy is not destined nor is it impervious to harm or even destruction. The most important safeguard against authoritarianism and dictatorship is an informed, engaged citizenry vigorously opposed to acquiescence and attrition. What is noteworthy now is the growing and consistently broad range of voices raising such concerns.

Some say that the transition of power in the White House and new administration will prove the voices of caution wrong. I certainly hope that is the case. Perhaps once in office and the seat of authority those elected and appointed to vast responsibility and power will be tempered by the unavoidable reality of their new duties. I pray that that will be so. Occupying the same office Abraham Lincoln or Adlai Stevenson once occupied ought to call forth a public servant's better angels.

Yet, if things take a turn for the worse, if rights and freedoms for all people are no longer honored, if our role in the world community as a beacon of hope and freedom is cast aside, if oppressive foreign powers reach beyond their borders and claim what are now sovereign nations and democratically elected governments because we as the leader of the free world relax or abandon our post WWII alliances, if the brief window of opportunity (two to three decades) to make dramatic changes in our use of coal, oil and natural gas is ignored and ecological catastrophe looms greater than it does at present, then the consequences of failed leadership go beyond mere political economy and have undeniably moral implications.

As the elected and appointed moral and spiritual leader of a Christian congregation *I will have failed my responsibility to you* and to the wider community should I remain silent regarding the unprecedented circumstances we now face given the publically proclaimed positions of incoming cabinet members and advisors in opposition to science, to the progressive values of a pluralistic democracy, and to equal opportunity for all people.

What appear as primarily political issues are, says the Reverend William Barber, at their core, moral issues that *transcend party politics*. The church at its best, in service to the society, has been a moral voice and conscience at defining moments in the life of the nation from slavery to the rights of women and children and men during the Industrial Revolution to the nuclear arms race, and to civil rights, human rights, women's rights and LGBT rights in the 20th century. Therefore, for religious communities that aspire to hold to high moral and ethical standards we are compelled to take notice, be vigilant and strive for peace, justice and healing in our time. These are not mutually exclusive ends but are compatible and appropriate goals for us as a religious community and as individuals.

One of the remarkable freedoms of the American experiment in democracy is that we get to raise concerns and issues like the ones I am raising here and engage one another and our elected leaders in dialogue, debate and even the pursuit of activism if deemed necessary.

I look forward to the year ahead, to working together with you, our church staff, our multi-faith partners and our Presbyterian colleagues for a stronger Buffalo and Western New York. Thank you for your dedication to and support of this important ministry we share.

May the New Year bring blessing to you and your loved ones and peace to our world.

All good wishes,

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor

Preaching Schedule

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

January 1

The Reverend Beth Hennessy
Seeing Peace
Matthew 2:13-23
One service only at 10:30AM
in the Sanctuary

January 8

Dr. Cameron Airhart

January 15

Westminster Presents:
Amahl and the Night Visitors
One service only at 10:30AM
in the Sanctuary

January 22

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
*Proclaiming Deliverance in a World of
Danger, Darkness and Death*
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Fools for Christ
Micah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12



Order Sunday Flowers

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 her: hugwalker1@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Adult Education

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Sundays, 9AM to 10:15AM

January 8

Poetry Reading and Reflections on "Secrets and Revelations."

Presenter: Ansie Baird

Ansie's poems are elegant, symbolic and thought provoking. She usually stirs our group up with morsels that lead to deep questions as well as lively conversations.

January 15

Coffee hour sharing of poems, art and music

Bring your favorite poem, short story, piece of art, song and share.

January 22

Spiritual Life Reflections and Integrations

What questions have come up since we started in September? Have you gone any deeper upon reflecting on topics presented? Have you become more active outside of church in some way based

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATIONS

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

Travelogue Series

January 8: *Tuscany & Tibet on Two Tires: Trials, Tribulations and Toasts*

While the Stevens brothers have traveled to distant edges of globe on their mountain bikes, in September of 2016, they divided to conquer. Greg pitted himself against barren higher elevations of the Chinese Tibetan plateau along with 20 of the Brotherhood of the Ride. Meanwhile Reed and Carolyn led by Jock and Betsy Mitchell in a buffalo based group of 20 toured the gently rolling hills along the Tuscan Sea Coast. Tales of adventure beauty and disaster abound as we compare these disparate journeys.

January 15: Louise and John McClive will speak about their two weeks in Rome where they saw outstanding art and architecture in Baroque churches, the Borghese Gallery and the buildings of the Eternal City

January 22: Jeannette Ludwig and Claude Welch will tell us about Sri Lanka, teardrop-shaped island off the SE coast of India, that presents a variety of landscapes, temples, and peoples. Its fascinating history stretches back more than 3,500 years. The Poson Poya Day celebrates the arrival of the Buddha's teaching in the 3rd C BCE. Large numbers of pilgrims attend ceremonies at the country's most important shrines (among them Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, and the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy). Aided by a rich visual presentation we will examine the religious and historical character of this fascinating South Asian nation.

January 29: Fred Cooley got to visit Cuba with his wife, Valerie, who was singing in the Smith College Alumni Chorus (80 women - plus 11 partners). They had 2 concerts in Havana and Matalzan with a Cuban male chorus and orchestra. In the 8-day visit last July, before the embargo was lifted, they had many excursions and restaurant meals in addition to the two 1-2 hrs./day of practice with a well-known conductor/choral director. *A country of contradictions, the sights were fascinating. We may even play a little of the concert recording. Hadn't seen this many 1957 autos since I was in high school.* - Fred Cooley

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 9AM - 10:15AM in the first room on the Parish Hall balcony

Beginning on Sunday, September 18, 2016 our adult Bible class resumes from our summer hiatus. Our Sunday morning class welcomes adults who are interested in exploring the Christian story, by studying the scripture and applying those lessons learned to our present lives. Hearing, reading, and wrestling with scripture helps us nurture the sensitivities, attitudes and abilities we need to live and work together as a community of faith. Whether you were raised in the church, or if you're a more recent member, we welcome your voice in these discussions. Come as your schedule permits. This class uses Feasting on the Word curriculum which explores the Bible passages used in our worship services.

GIVING 2017



Pledges received as of 12/22/16

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
208	\$432,522	\$167,478

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.



Legacy Corner Planned Giving

Get 2017 off to a strong start by getting “Your Affairs in Order”

Save the date of Sunday, February 26, 2017 for the Case Library Conversation Series led by 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.

Meet & Mingle NEEDS YOU!

The new “Meet & Mingle” fellowship time after worship has been a great success! Thanks to all of our members who have graciously volunteered to shop, host and sponsor this event. A special thank you to Roger Seifert and Debby LaMendola for leading this endeavor. Please consider volunteering for an upcoming “Meet & Mingle” in 2017! Plenty of opportunities and dates are available. Contact Debby LaMendola at (716) 983-4993 or email dlamendola@marykay.com to sign up to shop, host and/or sponsor “Meet & Mingle” today!



February Warm-Up!
Save the Date - February 12
for our Chili Pot-Luck!

**Join your Westminster friends
and family for chili fun,
and fellowship!**

**More details to follow in the
February newsletter.**



Capture a Moment **Men's Retreat 2017**

Friday, January 20 –

Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the
Byrncliff Resort, Varysburg, NY

This year's retreat will emphasize fellowship, reflection, discovery and interaction. Spiritual discernment and attentiveness will be our primary focus. Each year the Men's Retreat is designed as opportunities for rest, relaxation, reading, guided discussion about faith issues, worship and time with old and new friends. A brochure with complete information with the weekend schedule and additional reading material will be available on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. If you would like a brochure mailed to you, call Jamie at 884-9437.

MEN'S RETREAT 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____ Email address _____

Street & Zip _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____ Roommate _____

I prefer: single room ___ at \$185 ___ double room w/2 beds at \$135/person

Special needs (vegetarian, handicap, etc) _____

Your reservation and room preference is confirmed with 50% deposit of the cost. Reservation Deadline is January 15. Please mail your check and this form to: Westminster, 724 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209 ATTN: Men's Retreat. Balance is due by Friday, January 20 2017



The Choir School

The Junior and Senior Choristers, ages 7-18, rehearse Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30PM. At 6PM, the choristers sing Choral Evensong in the Holmes Chapel, open to everyone. The Choristers produce a high volume of quality choral repertoire each week, while furthering their ability to read music in various languages.

The Apprentice Choristers, ages 4-6, rehearse Sundays during the 10:30AM Sunday School time. They are taught fundamental music-reading and choral skills.

Our Choristers...

...learn more than just music: confidence, time management, leadership, and collaboration.
 ...receive significant individual attention in a stimulating, challenging, and fun environment.
 ...enjoy field trips, choir parties, and tours that foster bonding and strong friendships.
 Westminster's music program is one of the most highly respected in Western New York. Choristers use the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) curriculum, and learn from professional musicians at no expense to parents. The wide range of ages encourages teamwork—the older children gain experience mentoring the younger children.
 Children of any religious affiliation (or no affiliation) are welcomed at any time; no prior training or experience is required. A small stipend, based on leadership and performance, is paid to each chorister, underscoring the seriousness of the commitment to the choir.
 For additional information, contact: Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org, 716.884.9437, ext. 318

January Youth Events

- January 13-15:**
Senior highs & middler Camp Duffield
- January. 7 & 8:**
Confirmation Retreat from Saturday at 9AM to Sunday at 8:15AM
- January 8, 22 & 29:**
Dialog Diner in Parish Hall kitchen from 9:30AM to 10:15AM
- January 13 -15:**
Presbytery Youth Winter Weekend at Camp Duffield.

**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
 Office Hours: M-F 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
 Office: 884-9437 • Office Fax: 884-3450
 WECP: 884-9438 • WECP Fax: 886-7641
www.wpcbuffalo.org

To email a staff person use the person's first initial and last name @wpcbuffalo.org In the event of an emergency, Rev. Yorty can be reached at 830-8596
 Staff members phone extensions are listed below for your convenience.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

- The Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, ext. 313
- The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate, 716-697-0919
- Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries, ext. 318
- Debbie Katz, Director of Christian Education, ext. 329
- Mark Aquino, Youth Coordinator, ext. 311
- Lenore Neiler, Communications Coordinator, ext 302
- Patricia Kelly, Director of Finance, ext. 305
- Sawrie Becker, Director of Development, ext. 315
- Matt Marco, Assistant to the Pastor & to the Music Director, ext. 306
- Jamie Adamczyk, Administrative Assistant, ext. 326
- Brian Gilkes, Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ Scholar, ext. 357

Westminster Early Childhood Programs

- Dr. Cindy-Lynn Garbe, Director, ext. 328
- Todd Bothwell, Associate Director of Admissions, ext. 330
- Jessica Mitrovits, Development Associate, ext. 332
- Ebony Mallory, Administrative Assistant, ext. 300

Facilities

- Aaron Vivian, Facilities Supervisor, ext. 319, 716-504-7308
- Jeff Kaczmarek, Maintenance, ext. 319, 716-345-8013

Elders

Robert Bojdak, Clerk of Session

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Fran Holmes	Mark Aquino	Laurel Braun
Karen Keaton	Melissa Balbach	Bill Gray
Sandy Laub	Sawrie Becker	John Heer
Ardrey Manning	Bob Bojdak	Jack Jacobs
Elizabeth Stewart	Jen Callaghan	Ellen Kennedy
Adam Utley	Edwin Johnston	Chris LaMendola
Tom Warszawski	Jeff Renzoni	Peter McNally
Jim Weiland	Mimi Steadman	Ellie Seib

Deacons

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Kate Dierenfield	Russell Braun	Shea Akers
Doug Fabian	Patty Charlier	Cameron Airhart
Carol Huber	Kathleen Kelly	Mary Dimock
Joan Kuznia	Kirsten	Teddie Granville
Callan Izatt	Kifner-Kennedy	Janet
Mike Reynolds	Johnpatrick Marr	Kifner-Arnett
Nancy Stevens	Jennifer Russell	Florence
Roy Stewart	Josephine Stevens	Kilambo Kalumbu
	Ronald Sutz	Donald Kitangano
		Rebecca
		Read-Lukan



EVENING SERVICES AT WESTMINSTER

EVENSONG AND COMPLINE SERVICES

Based on the services held daily in the medieval Church, Choral Evensong as arranged in the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England has been sung regularly since the sixteenth century. Many people enjoy the contemplative feel of Evensong.

The word "Compline" is from the same root as the word "complete." As the last service of the day, this stunningly beautiful candlelit service features a small group of singers, "Schola," offering Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony.

All services are held at Westminster in the Sanctuary unless otherwise indicated.

CHORAL EVENSONG

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 6PM IN THE HOLMES CHAPEL, SEPTEMBER - MAY
THE SENIOR CHORISTERS OF THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR SCHOOL LEAD
THIS WEEKLY SERVICE OF MUSIC AND SCRIPTURE READINGS.

EVENSONG SERVICES AT 4PM WITH ORGAN PRELUDE AT 3:30PM COMPLINE SERVICES AT 8:00PM

CHORAL EVENSONG

January 29th, Westminster Choirs

COMPLINE

February 12th, Westminster Schola

CHORAL EVENSONG

March 12th, Westminster Choir School

PALM SUNDAY, CHORAL EVENSONG

April 9th,

Westminster Choirs, Dr. Gerald Gray, Guest Conductor

Fridays@ Westminster

Come for Music
Stay for Lunch!

Each Friday, local Buffalo artists present a 30 minute lunchtime recital in Westminster's historic Sanctuary. Come for the music, stay for lunch provided by a local food truck. Donations benefit the *Westminster Friends of Music*.

Experience a Taizé Service

Friday,
January 20
5:30PM in the
Holmes Chapel

Westminster will offer a Taizé service of music, prayer and contemplation on the third Friday of each month. For more information call 884-9437.



January Calendar

Sunday, January 1

Jeff/Aaron On Duty
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

Monday, January 2

WPC/WECP Closed

Tuesday, January 3

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
12:00 PM Passages Lunch
12:45 PM Passages Program
2:30 PM WOW Retreat Planning
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, January 4

12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
1:00 PM Newsletter Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, January 5

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
7:30 AM Coffee @ WECP
7:45 AM Ministry of Generosity
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
4:30 PM ENERGY Program

Saturday, January, 7

9:00 AM Confirmation Class Retreat

10:00 AM Amahl Read/Staging

Sunday, January 8

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
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
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
1:00 PM Reserve Amahl Set Up
1:00 PM Amahl Staging

Monday, January 9

10:00 AM Amahl Staging
10:00 AM Amahl and the Night Visitors
6:00 PM Amahl Piano Tech

Tuesday, January 10

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Management Mtg.

10:00 AM Amahl and the Night Visitors
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
5:00 PM Spiritual Life Mtg.
5:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts
6:00 PM Zen Dharma
6:00 PM Amahl Tech
7:00 PM Knitting Group

Wednesday, January 11

8:30 AM UPK Mtg.
9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
10:00 AM Amahl and the Night Visitors
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
6:00 PM Amahl Dress
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, January 12

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
10:00 AM Amahl and the Night Visitors
4:30 PM UPK Mtg.
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 13

10:00 AM Amahl School
6:00 PM Reserved for Amahl I
7:30 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors
8:30 PM Reserved for Amahl School

Saturday, January 14

10:00 AM My Church My Faith
6:00 PM Middler Lock-In
6:00 PM Reserved for Amahl
7:30 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors

Sunday, January 15

9:00 AM Infant /Toddler Care
9:00 AM Spiritual Life
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
9:15 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
10:30 AM Worship/Amahl and the Night Visitors

10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
2:30 PM Amahl and the Night Visitors

Monday, January 16

WECP & WPC Closed MLK Holiday

Tuesday, January 17

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Management Mtg.
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Zen Dharma
6:00 PM Mission Outreach Mtg.
7:00 PM WECP Parent Board Mtg.

Wednesday, January 18

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
12:00 PM Staff Mtg./6 Monthly Calendar Retreat
12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline
4:00 PM Choir School Rehearsal
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
6:00 PM Choir School Evensong
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, January 19

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
12:15 PM WOW Bible Study
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 20

12:00 PM Friday @ Westminster Concert Series
5:00 PM Men's Retreat (Bymcliff)
5:30 PM Taize Service

Saturday, January 21

9:00 AM WECP Pancake Breakfast
10:00 AM My Church My Faith

Sunday, January 22

8:00 AM Senior Choristers
8:00 AM Infant /Toddler Care
8:15 AM Worship/Communion
9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:00 AM Spiritual Life
9:15 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School

11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
12:30 PM Inquirer's Mtg./Light Refreshments

Monday, January, 23

12:00 PM Planned Giving Mtg.

Tuesday, January 24

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Management Mtg.
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
5:15 PM Invested Funds
5:30 PM Personnel Comm. Mtg.
6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, January 25

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
12:00 PM Enews Info. Deadline
1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
4:00 PM Choir School Rehearsal
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
6:00 PM Session Mtg.
6:00 PM Choir School Evensong
8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, January 26

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
7:30 AM Budget & Finance Mtg.
8:30 AM Centering Prayer
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Handbells
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 27

3:00 PM WOW Winter Retreat

Sunday, January, 29

8:00 AM Senior Choristers
8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
8:15 AM Worship/Communion
9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
9:00 AM Case Library Conversations
9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
9:15 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
10:40 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
4:00 PM Evensong

Monday, January, 30

7:00 PM WOW Book Group

Tuesday, January, 31

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
9:00 AM Management Mtg.
4:30 PM ENERGY Program
6:00 PM Zen Dharma



Sunday School at Westminster

Children are a vital part of the life and worship at Westminster.

- Our preschool class meets in the WECB building. After *Time with Children*, children 3-5 years old, 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-5th grade classes: Each month our classes rotate through our three Workshops; Creation Station, Hollywood and Apostles Playhouse.
- 6th-7th grade class meets each Sunday in their classroom on the Parish Hall balcony. Carol Timmerman-Yorty is their teacher.
- 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.



Creation Station

(artwork) in the Heritage Room



Hollywood

(video) 1st room Parish Hall balcony



Apostles Playhouse

(drama, cooking, & games)
Parish Hall Kitchen

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, January 14 & 21, 2017 and then February 4, 11, 18 & 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.

Claimed in the Waters of Baptism

Sunday School Update, Debbie Katz, Christian Educator



On the second Sunday in January, the lectionary turns to the story of Jesus' baptism. This year we will read this story in Matthew 3:13-17. As I read this passage, the words “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” stood out for me. In Jesus' baptism, God claimed him as his son. We believe that we too are claimed by the Holy Spirit in the waters of our own baptism. Centuries earlier John Calvin identified God's baptismal claim on Christians with these words, “We are not our own, but the Lord's.” Or as we affirm in

the opening lines of the Brief Statement of Faith, “In life and in death we belong to God.”

In every baptism there comes the moment when the pastor asks the parents for the name of their child. The answer is usually the baby's first and middle name. Their last name isn't mentioned, because as they are baptized each baby is now recognized as a child of God. Infant baptism emphasizes how God reaches out to us before we know how to reach out to God and others. The psalmist writes, “It was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.” Psalm 139:13

We need to read and hear the story of Jesus' baptism regularly to be reminded of our own baptism and the promises that were made. At every baptism, parents and the congregation promise to encourage and support through prayer and example to live and teach the Christian faith. When we read the story of Jesus' baptism, we might ask, how are we doing? Are we faithful followers of Christ? What are the simple things we do on a daily basis to help us know Jesus better? Teri Peterson and Amy Fetterman, two young Presbyterian pastors wrote *Who's Got Time? Spirituality for a Busy Generation*. In this book they candidly discuss how adults can cope with the daily demands of life and still search for something greater than themselves. For these authors spirituality is not a checklist, rather spirituality is a way of life. They offer *do-able* spiritual practices to develop this way of life.

In a month when people make New Year resolutions, unpacking what it means to belong to God at this moment in time is particularly daunting. How can we encourage and support each other? What are the practices we can incorporate into our daily lives that deepen our relationship with God? I found *Who's Got Time?* helpful. Each chapter ended with a summary of a spiritual practice; everything from various types of prayer to scripture reading to taking Sabbath snippet like taking a 15 minute N.A.P. or a Non-Active Period. For people who would be interested, look on the information table in the Gallery Room for handouts on the following spiritual practices: *Lectio divina* or daily readings; N.A.P.S Non-Active-Periods – as short as 10 minutes for a mini Sabbaths; Sabbath keeping – a day or a half day – time to unplug from work, and from gadgets; Centering prayer; Labyrinths or praying while walking; the sound of the sacred – using music for Sabbath time or prayer time; and High/low prayers at the end of the day.



WOW Women of Westminster

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY: WOW Lunchtime Bible Study is meeting 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-bflo.org or (716) 884-9437, ext. 329. Coffee and tea provided.

WOW BOOK DISCUSSION:

At our annual "discuss names of books we liked" evening, we came up with three book discussion ideas. These discussions are open to any woman who is interested. All meetings are at 7PM

Monday, Jan. 30th, at WPC, we will do a sort of double review. The books are *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and the companion book *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy: A Novel* (both by

Rachel Joyce). We strongly suggest that you read both books, Harold Fry first. Both are available in paperback. Briefly, Harold Fry leaves his house to mail a letter, and walks by the first mailbox, eventually deciding to deliver the letter in person, by walking across England.

April 24th, at WPC, we will discuss *The Samurai's Garden: A Novel*, by Gail Tsukiyama. "...The daughter of a Chinese mother and a Japanese father, Tsukiyama uses the Japanese invasion of China during the late 1930s as a somber backdrop for her unusual story about a 20-year-old Chinese painter named Stephen who is sent to his family's summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from a bout with tuberculosis..." Amazon review All reviews are very brief, just to give a hint. Please come and join the discussions



WOW - WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT

**Friday, January 27– Sunday, January 29, 2017
at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center,
Bemus Point, NY**

This is a favorite event for everyone who's ever attended! There's wonderful conversation, inspiring workshops, fresh air in beautiful surroundings, great food, spiritual renewal, and since everything's optional--rest if you need it! A brochure with complete information with the weekend schedule is on the Information Table in the Gallery Room. If you would like a brochure mailed to you, call Jamie at 884-9437.

Women's Winter Weekend 2017 Registration Form

Name _____ Street & Zip _____

Phone _____ email address _____

Emergency contact _____ Roommate _____
(Name & phone number)

I prefer a single room _____ at \$175

____ a double room with two beds at \$130 per person _____ a double room with a trundle bed at \$130 per person

Special needs (vegetarian, handicap, etc.) _____



Your reservation and room preference is confirmed with 50% deposit. Deadline is January 9th! Please mail check and this form to: Westminster, 724 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209 ATTN: Winter Retreat. Balance is due by Friday, January 27, 2017. If you need to change from a double to a single room, you will need to make up the difference by January 30, 2017.



THE ATRIUM @ RICH'S

1 Robert Rich Way, Buffalo, New York 14213
Free parking available!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

FUN AND FESTIVITIES

Food stations, live music, cash bar, live and silent auctions,
and the opportunity to experience
A Story of Empowerment: An Interactive Walkthrough Exhibit

RSVP BY JANUARY 27, 2017

wedibuffalo.org/winterfest2017

TICKETS

Please use the enclosed reply card or purchase at
winterfest2017.brownpapertickets.com

Purchase Tickets (RSVP BY 1/27/17)

I/we would like to purchase ___ tickets at \$55 per person.

I/we would like to purchase ___ patron tickets at \$100 per person.

Surprise Us!

I am unable to attend, but would like to donate \$_____ to WEDI (donations accepted by check or online at wedibuffalo.org/donate)

Name _____ Company Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please list my/our name(s) as _____

Please make checks payable to Westminster Economic Development Initiative, Inc. and mail to Westminster, 724 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209. Please indicate in memo on check: WEDI Winterfest 2017, or purchase tickets online at winterfest2017.brownpapertickets.com
For questions or more information please call WEDI

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

724 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209-2294
716-884-9437



Anyone who would like to learn more about our community and the many ministries we support is invited to attend a meeting in the Case Library immediately following our 10:30AM .worship service on any of the following dates: **January 22, March 19, May 21.** Thomas Yorty, Pastor of the congregation will tell the story of our church as well as 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.

Lets 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, 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 or at www.wpcbuffalo.org/lets-stay-connected

Westminster Knitting Group



Our meetings will be held on the following dates: **Tuesday, January 19 and February 14 & 28.** More dates TBA. The group meets on various Tuesdays throughout the year from 7PM to 9PM. The group works on their individual projects as well as prayer shawls, scarves and other handmade items for members of the church. Beginners welcome! Contact Fran Holmes: mfranholmes@verizon.net for information and dates.



Alcohol and Drug Education Referral Service

*Alcohol abuse affects many millions of Americans.
Alcoholism and drug addiction are chronic progressive
diseases, fatal if untreated.*

But they can be successfully treated.

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.