

3rd Annual Westminster Friends of Music

Gala

Music by **GRAVY**
jazz/funk quartet

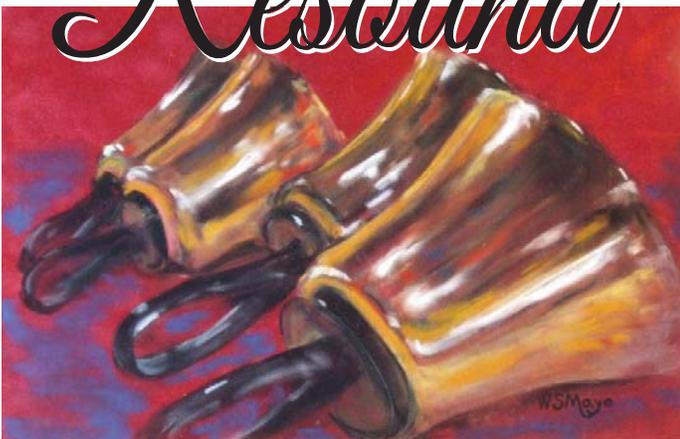
Friday, May 4, 7:30 PM, Saturn Club
Tickets \$75 at wpcbuffalo.org/gala2018



If you attended last year's sold out event, you enjoyed a fantastic evening of food, fun, and music—all while supporting the Westminster Choirs, Handbell Choir, and the extensive music programming that occurs throughout the year. This year's event is sure to be even bigger and better—buy your tickets today, before they sell out! Please consider that your ticket goes a long way to support so many aspects of our music program, including: weekly sacred music offerings, guest artist performances, maintaining our historic Aeolian-Skinner organs and Steinway pianos, sending our choristers to choir camps, public outreach, and music edu-

cation. As the choir makes its final preparations for their tour and residency to Truro Cathedral this July, your support will go far in securing our church's commitment to serving both the local and global communities through the arts.

Let the Bells *Resound*



The Westminster Handbell Choir
Sunday, May 6, 4:00 PM

Steve Mayo, Director

Join us for an afternoon of music presented by Westminster's renowned Handbell Choir. Musicians and dancers from the African American Cultural Center will perform with the choir. Free Admission; Donations gratefully accepted to benefit the Westminster Friends of Music

Happy Spring!



Dear Friends,

It's May – a merry and busy month indeed: The Westminster Friends of Music Gala on May 4, Holy Communion on May 6, Mother's Day on May 13, and Pentecost on May 20. We will hear about the Spirit of God in Sunday morning Scripture readings leading up to Pentecost Sunday. This day, the coming of the Holy Spirit, is important because Peter and disciples became Apostles-leaders of Jesus' movement in the world.

There is a tension in every church between the head and the heart; between Law and Spirit; between discipline and freedom. Presbyterians have long found themselves across the spectrum of head and heart. Some are more comfortable closer to the head – to rational, logical, reasonable decision-making, and practice of faith. Others gravitate more readily to the heart – the spirit, the impulse of intuition, and emotion, passions, and feelings.

Neither one is “right” or “wrong” – in fact, both are needed to live your faith and carry out the work of the church. Yet, most congregations are more one or the other; most *people* are more one than the other. That's what is so important about being in community. We gain exposure to those who are different to us in their orientation to these poles of spiritual practice.

Here's a “spring training” workout for your faith life: if you are more of a rational/logical/head Christian, try letting go into the embrace and guiding of the Holy Spirit. You might do this with a daily prayer – or by getting out of your comfort zone and changing up your routine. Ask God to lead you deeper into the care of the Holy Spirit and keep your eyes and ears open. You might be in for a surprise! If you're more of a heart Christian, try engaging in a study of a book of the Bible, a book on spiritual practice, or a book of theology. Feed your intellect with some of the classics of the faith. I'd be glad to offer some suggestions!

The one thing that will curtail our growth as followers of Jesus and as a congregation, is getting stuck in seeing and experiencing our faith in the same old way. Let God shake things up in your life. It's spring; it's May. Pentecost is around the corner!

See you in church,

Tom

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty, Pastor

Preaching Schedule

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

May 6

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Acts 10:44-48
*Something There Is That
Doesn't Love A Wall*

May 13

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
*The More You Practice
The Luckier You Get*

May 20

Pentecost Sunday
The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
Recognizing Graduating Seniors
Acts 2:1-21
Messier Than Democracy

May 27

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty
John 3:1-17
The Beginning of a Beautiful Relationship

Save the Date!

Join us on Sunday, June 10 for Worship and our Annual Meeting

On Sunday, June 10, the service will be designed to incorporate our Annual Meeting into worship. We will intersperse reports, testimonials, and stories with hymns and prayers. Join us as we catch the pulse of this Body of Christ called Westminster and commit to the year ahead!

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Adult Bible Study

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM in the first classroom on 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 Conversations Series

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM in the Case Library

May 6 and 13: *Religion in America*

Leader: Jeannette Ludwig.

Jeannette will lead a two-part series on Religion in America. This series will begin by outlining the European religious situation that prompted people to move to the New World, where they encountered Native American traditions. Moving through time from the Founding Fathers to the opening of the frontier and the prairie, we will conclude with the rise of Pentecostalism, the flourishing of megachurches and recent uptick of interest in Asian religions.

May 20: *Worship: Why We Worship the Way We Do*

Presented by Rev. Yorty, Garrett Martin, Ellie Seib, and Debbie Katz.



A Program for Older Adults **Passages**

Throughout our lives, we experience periods of stability and times of transition. So it comes as no surprise the later part of our life is also marked by various passages. Beginning with retirement, adults progress through various changes in their lives and circumstances. On the first Tuesday of each month at Westminster, there's a gathering for adults who have reached these stages.

Come join our Passages on **Tuesday, May 1**. Lunch is at 12:30 PM and our program is at 1:00 PM. This month, we're pleased to announce our own Bina Pawley will sing folk songs in a program, titled, "Welcome to My World of A Cappella Solo Singing." Please RSVP at the sign up sheet on the table in the Gallery Room or call Jamie at 884-9437.

Centering Prayer Group

Tuesdays at 8:30 AM in the Meditation Room

Centering prayer is a spiritual discipline. Resting in silence with God is the goal of centering prayer. For people who would like to try centering prayer, consider joining our group each Tuesday.

For people who believe they don't have enough time, try downloading meditation phone applications. Two programs I recommend are:

- Headspace at headspace.com

- Stop/Breathe/Think at stopbreathethink.com

These computer and cell phone apps are strictly meditation-oriented. What Headspace and Stop/Breathe/Rest offers people is reminders and the ability slowly build up the time they spend in silence. They begin with one minute of silence and calm. One minute is great starting place.

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, Pastor, ext. 313

The Rev. Beth Hennessy, Pastoral Care Associate, 716-697-0919

Garrett F. Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries, ext. 318

Sawrie Becker, Director of Development, ext. 315

Debbie Katz, Director of Christian Education, ext. 329

Patricia Pearce, Director of Finance, ext. 305

Deb Pettibone, Communications Director, ext. 310

Lenore Neiler, Graphic Designer, ext. 302

Mark Aquino, Youth Coordinator, ext. 311

Matt Marco, Assistant to the Pastor and the Music Director, ext. 306

Jamie Adamczyk, Administrative Assistant, ext. 326

Käthe Wright Kaufman, 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

Facilities

Aaron Vivian, Facilities Supervisor, ext. 319, 716-504-7308

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

Nabyo (Joseph) Bahuga, Maintenance, 716-424-6762

Austin Becker, Maintenance. 716-479-0668

Elders

Robert Bojdak, Clerk of Session

Class of 2018

Mark Aquino
Melissa Balbach
Sawrie Becker
Bob Bojdak
Jen Callaghan
Edwin Johnston
Jeff Renzoni
Mimi Steadman

Class of 2019

Laurel Braun
Bill Gray
John Heer
Jack Jacobs
Ellen Kennedy
Chris LaMendola
Peter McNally
Ellie Seib
Rebecca Montague

Class of 2020

Cameron Airhart
M. Frances Holmes
Barbara Nelson
Rebecca Montague
Leslie Deich
Elizabeth Stewart
Roger Seifert
Joe Speth

Deacons

Class of 2018

Russell Braun
Patty Charlier
Kathleen Kelly
Kirsten Kifner-Kennedy
Johnpatrick Marr
Jennifer Russell
Josephine Stevens
Ronald Sutz

Class of 2019

Shea Akers
Cameron Airhart
Mary Dimock
Teddie Granville
Janet Kifner-Arnatt
Florence Kilambo
Kalumbu
Donald Kitangano
Rebecca Read-Lukan

Class of 2020

Ellen Bean
Kate Dierenfield
Victoria Garner
Carol Greatham
Tom Greatham
Jane Morris
Isaiah New
Robert Nickelsen

The Power of Generosity



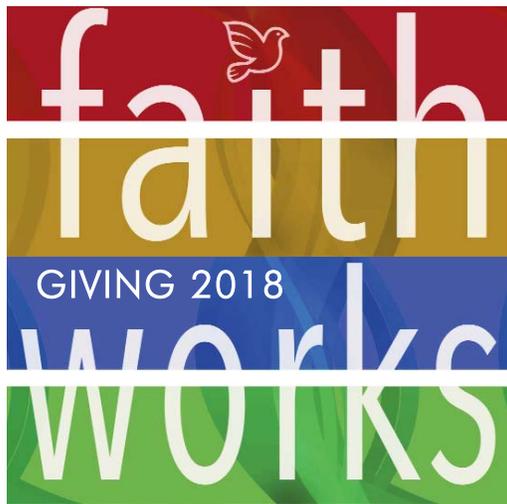
*Thanks to all
who pledged to
Faith Works
Giving 2018.*

Your generosity has helped us come very close to achieving our goal of \$600,000. Thank you for considering a pledge at this time, if you have not had a chance to do so. For your convenience, pledge cards are available in the Holmes Room. You may make a pledge or a pledge payment on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving or by contacting Sawrie Becker at 884-9437 ext. 315. Because of YOU, Westminster Presbyterian Church continues the worthwhile ministries within our church home and community.

Sincerely,

Julie Zenger & Melissa Balbach

If you would like to learn more about special gift opportunities to Westminster, please contact Sawrie Becker, Director of Development, at 884-9437, ext. 315; Email: sbecker@buffalo.org



Pledges received as of 04/26/2018

Number of Pledges Received	Total Pledges Received	Dollars to Goal
290	\$586,077	\$13,923

Thanks to all who pledged to “Faith Works” Giving 2018. Your generosity has helped us come very close to achieving our goal of \$600,000. Thank you for considering a pledge at this time if you have not had a chance to do so. For your convenience pledge cards are available in the Holmes Room, you may make a pledge or a pledge payment on our secure site at www.wpcbuffalo.org/giving or by contacting Sawrie Becker at 884-9437 ext. 315. Because of YOU, Westminster Presbyterian Church continues the worthwhile ministries within our church home and community.



Bequests Have The Power To Bless Future Generations

Sunday, May 6 is Wills Emphasis Sunday. Presbyterians are encouraged to include their church and a PC(USA) ministry in their will and/or other estate plans. Gifts that come from wills can play a critical part in continuing a church’s mission and can help it meet people’s needs through ministry now and in the future generations. But according to a 2015 Harris Poll survey for Rocket Lawyer, 64 percent of Americans don’t have a will.

It is never too early to write a will; it can only be too late. If you die without a will, the laws of your state will determine how your estate is distributed, and no assets will be given to any charitable organization, no matter how important that organization was to you during your lifetime. If you do have a will, it should be reviewed from time to time to mirror the changes that may take place in your life. Making a bequest to the church in your will is a simple effective way to speak into the future of your faith community. It costs you nothing in your lifetime, and you don’t have to be wealthy to bless the church with a gift in your will. Small amounts can be put to good use right away, or invested so they grow in the years to come.

Please stop by the information table in the Gallery Room to pick up information about planned giving opportunities. You may also contact Sawrie Becker, Director of Development, at 884-9437, ext. 315 Email: sbecker@buffalo.org or Tom Yorty, Pastor at 884-9437, ext. 313, Email: tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org

Thank you
for wearing your
NameTag!



Being a welcoming church is part of our mission and purpose here at Westminster. When you arrive at church, all members and visitors are encouraged to locate a nametag in the beautiful new nametag display cabinet, in the

Holmes Room. Wear your nametag while you are at church so that we may all personally greet one another and then place your nametag in a basket as you leave.

MEET & MINGLE

Our "Meet & Mingle" fellowship opportunity immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service is thriving! Please continue to gather in the Holmes Room to greet members and friends and welcome new faces as we nurture our church community. **Sponsors, Shoppers & Hosts are needed for Meet & Mingle in May and June.** Meet & Mingle is a great way to celebrate a special person or occasion. For more information and to sign up to help, please contact Debby LaMendola at debby.lamendola@icloud.com



Join us for
Food, Fun & Fellowship!

Look for details on the
Information Table in the
Gallery Room

Foyer DINNER GROUPS

Foyer Dinner Groups are a new and fun way for WPC members and friends to gather together on an informal basis to enjoy one another's company, strengthen bonds of our WPC community, meet new members, and get to know each other.

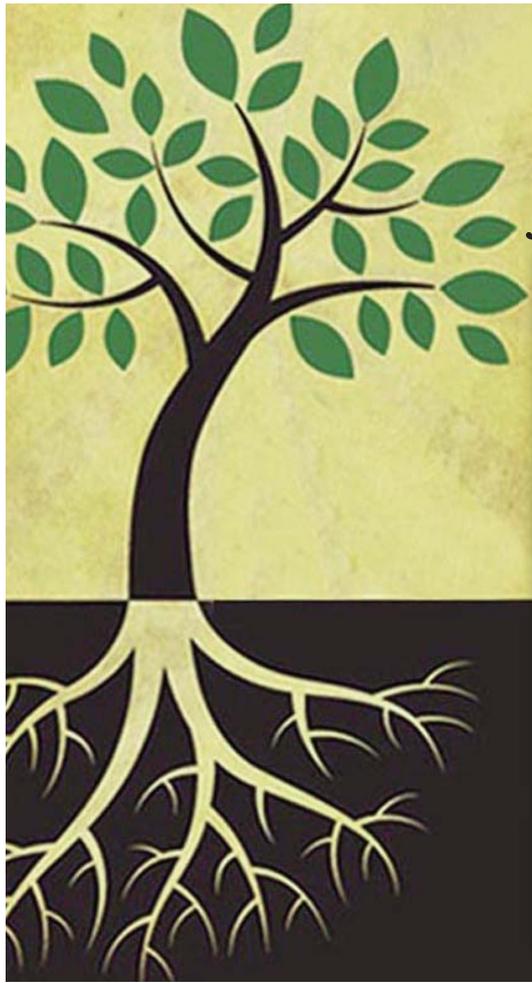
- There is no agenda or formal plan - just casual fellowship, shared over a meal. The groups will be made up of a mixture of people of all ages, a cross section of our diverse WPC congregation.
- Foyer Dinner Groups provide the opportunity for friendships to develop among people who might not have any other opportunity to meet and get to know each other.
- Each group will include between six and ten people who will meet every six to eight weeks in the home of one of the members of the group.
- Generally, the host will provide the main course while the other group members fill in the rest of the meal with items such as appetizer, bread, wine, salad, vegetable, or dessert. At each gathering the plan and host for the next event can be determined. Dinner, lunch, brunch, a picnic: the choice is up to each group.
- Some groups may elect to study and discuss a book. Some will want to keep the time together purely social. The choice of available options is limited only by the imagination of the group.

Does joining a Foyer Dinner Groups sound interesting to you? Would you like to learn more? Please stop by the Foyer Dinner Groups table in the Holmes Room for more information or sign-up between the morning services or during Meet and Mingle. *We look forward to putting you into a new group of friends!* Organized by the Membership Committee.

Some highlights of our "Meet & Mingle" fellowship:

On Sunday, April 15 our friends at First Presbyterian Church came to Westminster to worship and their newly installed pastor, the Reverend Dr. Ken Hughes, was our guest preacher. Following worship, our Worship, Music and Arts committee hosted a special "Meet & Mingle" to honor our friends at First - It was a great day!





MeetUp

Join us for this summer event!



Westminster goes to the Ball Park! Friday, June 15, 2018
Buffalo Bisons vs. Rochester Redwings, 7:05 PM at Coca-Cola Field. Picnic at the Church before the game at 5:00PM and fireworks at the park after the game. Tickets are \$12:00 each and you can purchase them from David Carstensen before and after worship on Sundays. We'll supply the hot dogs & pop. Please bring a dish to share. Parking is available at the United Way parking lot. Please join us for the picnic even if you're NOT going to the game.

March "Meet Up" with David Weeks and Friends of Charlie O'Neill's Unplugged Club at the Rust Belt Bar and Grill included great music, enjoying good food and meeting new friends.



We welcome you to join our community of faith at Westminster; a church that is active in our community and welcomes all God's people. Anyone who would like to learn more about Westminster, and the many ministries we support is invited to attend an Inquirers Class held in the Case Library immediately following our 10:30 AM worship service. During the class, our Pastor, Thomas Yorty, will tell the story of our church, as well as highlight 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.

To reserve your spot for **May 6, 2018** or if you have any questions, please contact Sawrie Becker at 884-9437 Ext. 315 anytime about membership at Westminster. or Tom Yorty Ext. 313, tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org



The Choir School at Westminster

Our Choristers...

...learn more than just music, they learn 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 Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) 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.



Wednesdays @ Westminster: Music - Poetry - Performance. Each Wednesday, local Buffalo artists give a 30 minute presentation at noon. Free, donations benefit the Westminster Friends of Music.

May 2: Michael Manganiello, baritone and Käthe Wright Kaufman, organ
May 16: Veronica Shanchuk, soprano

WESTMINSTER *Presents*

QED Vocal Ensemble

Saturday, May 5, 2018, 12:00 PM. Works by Whitacre, Pärt, Ticheli, Pentatonix, Victoria, Bruckner, and more. Free-will donations will benefit the Westminster Friends of Music.

Westminster Handbell Choir Concert

Sunday, May 6, 4 PM. Join us for an afternoon of music presented by Westminster's renowned handbell choir and talented guest artists.

Westminster Choir Concert,

Friday, May 11, 7:30 PM. As the Westminster choirs begin their final preparations for their July residency at Truro Cathedral, Cornwall, they will present this special concert showcasing our repertoire, congregation favorites, and more! Join us for a champagne reception (\$20) in the Case Library.

Pentecost, Sunday, May 20, 10:30 AM. The Westminster choirs and the Buffalo Brass Quintet celebrate the final Sunday of the Easter season, and the final choir Sunday of the church's program year.

Save the Date: June 2, Hymn-a-Thon at Westminster We will sing one verse of every hymn (605) in the hymnal. Sponsor a Chorister for each hymn sung and/or you can make a donation if you would like more than one verse of a hymn sung or if you would like for a hymn to be skipped altogether. A catered lunch will be offered, cost is \$25. You can soon make a reservation at www.wpcbuffalo.org. More details to follow!

Five ways to support the choir's upcoming trip to England



- 1. Purchase gala tickets: wpcbuffalo.org/gala2018**
- 2. Make a donation: wpcbuffalo.org/donation**
- 3. Attend the Choir concert on May 11, and stay for the reception in the Library**
- 4. Sponsor a singer for the Hymn-a-thon on June 2, and lend your voice in support.**
- 5. Come on tour with us—eight spots are still remaining!**

May Calendar

Tuesday, May 1

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:30 AM Centering Prayer
 9:00 AM Management Mtg.
 12:30 PM Passages Lunch
 1:15 PM Passages Program
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 5:00 PM Personnel Mtg.
 5:00 PM Spiritual Life Mtg.
 5:45 PM WECP Staff Mtg.
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, May 2

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
 12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
 12:00 PM Wednesdays @ WPC
 1:00 PM Newsletter Deadline
 1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 6:00 PM Case Library Comm. Mtg.
 8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, May 3

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 6:00 PM Handbells
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 4

6:00 PM Friends of Music Gala

Saturday, May 5

8:30 AM WECP Spring Clean Up
 12:00 PM QED Concert

Sunday, May 6

8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:00 AM Senior Choristers
 8:15 AM Worship/Communion
 9:00 AM Spiritual Life
 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
 9:00 AM Case Library Series
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM First Sunday Youth
 Service/Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship/Communion
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
 12:30 PM Inquirer's Class
 4:00 PM Handbell Choir Concert

Monday, May 7

10:00 AM WECP Grandparent's Wk
 7:00 PM WOW Book Discussion

Tuesday, May 8

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:30 AM Centering Prayer
 9:00 AM Management Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 5:00 PM Worship, Music & Arts
 5:15 PM Invested Funds
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma
 7:00 PM WECP Parent Board Mtg.

Wednesday, May 9

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
 12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
 12:00 PM Wednesdays @ WPC
 1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, May 10

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 4:30 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 12

9:00 AM ENERGY Celebration

Sunday, May 13

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 Spiritual Life
 9:00 AM Case Library Series
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 10:30 AM Worship
 10:40 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

Monday, May 14

10:00 AM WECP Grandparent's Wk

Tuesday, May 15

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:00 AM Zen Dharma
 8:30 AM Centering Prayer
 9:00 AM Management Mtg.
 3:00 PM Buildings & Grounds
 4:00 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program

Wednesday, May 16

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
 12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
 12:00 PM Final Wednesdays @ WPC

1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
 4:00 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, May 17

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 7:30 AM Budget & Finance Mtg.
 12:15 PM WOW Bible Study
 4:00 PM Choir School Rehearsal
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 7:30 PM Final Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 19

10:00 AM 55th Fair

Sunday, May 20

8:00 AM Senior Choristers
 8:00 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:15 AM Worship/Communion
 9:00 AM Spiritual Life
 9:00 AM Adult Bible Class
 9:00 AM Case Library Series
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 AM Worship- Recognizing
 Graduating Seniors
 10:30 AM Worship
 10:40 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle
 4:00 PM Pentecost Evensong

Monday, May 21

5:00 PM CMH Board Mtg.

Tuesday, May 22

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:30 AM Centering Prayer
 9:00 AM Management Mtg.
 4:00 PM United Way Board Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 5:30 PM Personnel Comm. Mtg.
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, May 23

10:00 AM WECP Plant Sale Pick Up
 12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
 1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 6:00 PM Session Mtg.
 8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, May 24

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program

Sunday, May 27

6:00 AM Buffalo Marathon Race
 8:15 AM Worship/Communion
 9:00 AM Heavenly Grounds
 10:30 AM Worship
 11:30 AM Meet & Mingle

Monday, May 28

7:00 AM WECP & WPC Closed

Tuesday, May 29

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:30 AM Centering Prayer
 9:00 AM Management Mtg.
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, May 30

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

Thursday, May 31

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 3:00 PM Newman Mem.l Service
 4:30 PM ENERGY Program

Order Sunday Flowers



If you would like to purchase Sunday flowers in honor/mem-ory of family or friends, there is a monthly sign up in the "Sunday Flower Book" in the Gallery Room. You may also contact Sue Adams at 883-7597 or hugwalker1@gmail.com



Sunday School at Westminster

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

- Our preschool class meets in the WECP building. After *Time with the Children*, children 3-5 year olds leave with their teachers, “Miss Debby,” “Mr. Chris” LaMendola, and Mrs. Janet and walk to the building together. In cold weather, the children need their coats. After worship, the children and their teachers gather together in the Holmes Room.
- 1st-2nd grade class meet each Sunday with their teachers in the first classroom before the Parish Hall balcony.
- 3rd, 4th-5th grade class meet with their teachers, Mr. Isaiah and Mrs. Rebecca in the first classroom on the Parish Hall balcony,
- 6th-7th grade class meet each Sunday with their teachers, Debbie Izatt and Carol Timmerman-Yorty, in the last classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.
- Our confirmation class is made up of 8th graders. They met one-on-one with their mentor until January, after which they meet each Sunday from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM in the classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.
- Our Senior Highs, 9th-12th graders, meet each Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialogue Diner.

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



Confirmation Preparation

Each spring our Sunday School Committee plans for next year's confirmation class. Under consideration are topics such as: Who will be in the class this year and when will the class be confirmed? We use the passive voice as if each confirmand receives something. As a congregation, have we given much thought about what our confirmation class receives?

Confirmation originated as a ritual of laying on of hands and/or with anointing with oil, accompanied by prayer as part of the baptismal rite, emblematic of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament. Church historians debate how and why these acts became known as “confirmation.” Baptism – washing with water in the name of the Trinity – was understood from New Testament times as the occasion for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The baptismal liturgy included the rite of laying on of hands and anointing with oil.

By the middle ages, the church taught baptism was necessary for salvation. At a time when infants often died soon after birth, it became a matter of course for midwives to baptize a newborn at risk. The laying on of hands and anointing of oil, if the child survived, was performed when the bishop “confirmed” and completed these emergency baptisms. As this Confirmation ritual became separated from baptism it became necessary to justify it as a separate act. The theological rationale offered was that Confirmation represented an act of strengthening with the Holy Spirit those who had already been baptized.

Confirmation posed a problem to the sixteenth-century Protestant reformers. Neither Martin Luther nor John Calvin found any evidence in scripture that the sacrament of Baptism could or should be divided. However, Calvin wrote that it would be useful to have a rite “in which children or those near adolescence would give an account of their faith before the church” after a period of learning the catechism. For Protestants, confirmation was a rite, not a sacrament.

Each spring our church, through the Sunday School Committee, parents and the church educator, begins to plan for next year's confirmation class. Our plans and preparations are guided by the Reformation insight that the young people in our confirmation class will give an account of their faith as it is at that moment. We also are inspired by the pre-Reformation accent that God is at work in and through the church to do something for and with our confirmands. For when they are confirmed, they will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit. The confirmands will answer the same questions they made when they were baptized as infants. With the laying on of hands, we will embrace and welcome them into the church as members on their own.

In September, our confirmation class will meet and work with their mentors. They will attend Sunday classes and various retreats. They will learn or relearn Bible stories, church history and polity. They will listen, consider and then they will write a statement of what they believe and how they will be a part of our faith community. Their confirmation year will be filled with exploration and decisions.

Before their confirmation begins, I'd like to pose some questions. How do we as a congregation prepare for these confirmands? How knowledgeable are we about the confirmation process? Are we willing to relearn and think about Bible stories, and our church history? Would we be willing to be a part of a parallel class of our own where we will discuss, listen to the same topics our confirmands will study. Would we decide to work and write a statement of faith of what we believe and we will share those statements when our confirmation class is confirmed next spring? Thoughts and comments are encouraged.

Buffalo Zen Dharma Community
Presents



Geoffrey Shugen Arnold, Roshi

Abbot of Zen Mountain Monastery

May 17 & 18, 2018

Episcopal Diocese of WNY Ministry Center
1064 Brighton Road • Tonawanda, NY 14150

Shugen Roshi is the head of the Mountains and Rivers Order of Zen Buddhism, abbot and resident teacher of Zen Mountain Monastery, and abbot of the Zen Center of NYC. Shugen Roshi has been in full-time residential training since 1986; he received dharma transmission from Daido Roshi in 1997. His teachings have appeared in various Buddhist journals and in *The Best Buddhist Writing* 2009. His first book, a collection of memorial poems titled *O, Beautiful End*, was published in 2012.

Roshi's presentation on the Metta Sutta and his discussion on Karma are based on the fundamental teachings of the historical Buddha. We are fortunate to have a teacher with a depth and breadth of decades-long monastic training and practice come to Buffalo to make these teachings available to us. We invite you to take advantage of Shugen Roshi's steadfast commitment to help share the Buddha's teachings with those interested in cultivating peace in these troubling times by participating in the following two events.

Loving Kindness: A Talk on the Metta Sutta

Thursday Public Talk May 17th, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM (Donation \$15*)

Loving Kindness is both a natural and cultivated aspect of selfless compassion, which together with wisdom into the real nature of all things, form the heart of Buddhist teaching and practice. Taught by the Buddha, this simple and profound teaching offers practical guidance and deep insight into the path of the enlightened life. In this talk, Shugen Roshi will teach on the Metta Sutta and then invite questions to help further examine and clarify its meaning. Copies of the Metta Sutta will be available.

Before the lecture, 6:30-6:55pm, Shugen Roshi will offer Zen meditation instructions to those who are interested.

The Unexpected Gift of Karma

Friday Discussion May 18th, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM (Donation \$15*)

This discussion is open to everyone, regardless of prior experience with Buddhist practice. The discussion will be on Karma, the profound teaching on cause and effect, and its importance in everyday life

Doors open at 6:00 PM. Discounts available—financial hardship will never be a barrier to participation.

BUFFALO ZEN DHARMA COMMUNITY
Mountains and Rivers Order Affiliate
www.BuffaloZen.org Ray Eigen Ball, MRO
contact@buffalozen.org • 716-393-2936

Newcomer Orientation and Introduction 1st Tuesday of every month:
6:40 PM at Westminster— please call in advance



Women Of Westminster (WOW)
Annual Hat Potluck Dinner
(Salads, Casseroles, and Desserts)

Tuesday, June 5
6:00 PM
in the Oak Room



Heavenly, humorous, historic, hideous, or humble...each year the Women of Westminster don chapeaus of various shapes, sizes, virtue, and lineage! This is an evening of food and fun, spanning all ages of women in our congregation. Just one requirement: the head must be attired! Come hear the hat stories! Bring a salad, casserole or dessert to share (plus \$1 to cover the cost of paper

goods). Sign up on the Information Table in the Gallery Room or call the church at 884-9437.

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: On Monday, May 7 we will talk about *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. Mark your calendars now, and start reading. We'll meet for our book discussions at 7 PM in the Case Library.

WESTMINSTER KNITTING GROUP: The next meeting dates are May 8 and 22. 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 at mfranholmes@verizon.net for more information and dates.

It's a Wrap at ENERGY!



May brings the final weeks of ENERGY for the 2017 - 2018 school year. As we prepare to wind down, I want to express my gratitude to all the volunteers and church members who have made generous donations to our program. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, helps to keep our program running.



Some highlights from the last month have been reading the book and seeing the Theater of Youth's production of *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook*. Canisius students taught us about the good and bad bacteria that



surrounds us, and some volunteers taught us a new song!

Join us on Saturday, May 12th in Parish Hall for our annual Year End Celebration at 12:00 PM. We will share some of our favorite memories from the year, present some of our hard work, and share a meal with families, volunteers, and community members. All are welcome!

Interested in helping with our summer program? Contact the Program Coordinator at 507-8216 or awojciechowski@wedibuffalo.org.



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.

WPC'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.

Lunch & Shop at WSB!

Lunch and Shop! This is a great opportunity to take friends and family for a delicious lunch and do some shopping all in one bright, welcoming and warm venue!

Tuesday-Thursday: 11-7:00 PM

Friday - Saturday: 10:00 AM-9:00 PM

LOTS OF FREE PARKING!



25 Grant Street, Buffalo, 464-6389
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WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

724 Delaware Avenue
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A Tradition
Like No Other!

The 55th WECF
Annual Children's Fair
Saturday, May 19th

10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us for a fun afternoon outside on the Westminster grounds. It is truly a community effort with volunteers from the school, parents and church members working together to create a memorable day for the children. The Fair is specifically designed for young children with rides, games, food, bake sale and a raffle. If you have any questions, or for more information please contact Jessica Mitrovits x332 or jmitrovits@wecpbuffalo.org.

Stained Glass Window Tours

Allentown Art Festival, Sunday, June 10, 12:00 - 2:00 PM



The Westminster stained glass windows are treasures, not only for our church community but also for the City of Buffalo. During the Allentown Art Festival, Westminster will open its doors to the public to view our outstanding Sanctuary and window masterpieces. The ten large windows in the Sanctuary tell 127 Bible stories, with Old Testament scriptures depicted on the North side, and New Testament lessons on the South. They were generously donated by members and installed between 1931 and 1952. As sunshine radiates through the gem-like colors, the timeless messages of the

scriptures are revealed:

- The Commandment Window depicts Moses raising enduring rules to live by and the Good Samaritan story is revealed in the New Testament's Parable window.
- The red embroidered cushions in the chancel depict selected pictures from the windows.
- The Creation story is represented, along with the Prophet Isaiah's message, and the Nativity story. These provide fun window scavenger hunts for youth groups!
- The Praise Window, located near the choir loft stairway, celebrates the blessings of music and community service. These touching symbols include Marian Anderson singing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and Peanut's "Schroeder".
- Westminster House, started in 1893 by Rev Samuel Holmes to support needy families on East Side Buffalo.
- The Westminster Hospital in Iran, established in 1878 by missionary doctor, Joseph Cochran, was funded by Westminster member Stephen Clement. Westminster has an inspiring history, fueling the mission outreach still in place today.

Docents are always needed to guide visitors for informal Sanctuary tours. If you would like to learn about our windows and participate in a special docent training on Sunday, June 3, please contact Sherrie Bernat: sbernat@roadrunner.com or Janet Kowalski at janetk300@gmail.com.
