

Westminster News - FEBRUARY 2021



February at Westminster Presbyterian Church

- February 7** **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany/Communion**
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-30
Focus Text: Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Matthew 6:25-34
Sermon: *Consider the Lilies* - Chelsea Cornelius, Guest Preacher
- February 14** **Transfiguration Sunday**
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
Focus Text: Mark 9:2-9 Sermon: Who is Jesus?
- February 17** **Ash Wednesday**
11am-12:30pm-Drive by Ashes at Westminster Church
(at the Yuma Dr entrance)
- February 21** **First Sunday in Lent**
Texts: Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-19a
Focus Text: Acts 9:1-19a Sermon: *Waking Up White*
- February 28** **Second Sunday in Lent**
Texts: Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-28
Focus Text: Exodus 3:1-15 Sermon: *Hebrew Lives Matter*



Welcome Guest Preacher & Forum Speaker Chelsea Cornelius February 7

Chelsea Cornelius is a UW-Madison alum (BA, 2015) and earned her Master of Divinity degree at The University of Chicago Divinity School (MDiv, 2019), where she wrote a masters thesis on neonatal ethics and trauma-informed theology. She is a candidate for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Chelsea is the Pediatric Staff Chaplain at American Family Children's Hospital at UW Health and on the pastoral staff at Covenant Presbyterian Church. She is also a writing instructor for the University of Chicago Humanities Division and is a night chaplain at Meriter Hospital in Madison. She lives on the east side of Madison with her partner, Sarah.

Join us on zoom Sunday February 7 at 11:45am (after coffee time) for a special forum with Chelsea: "Hospital Chaplaincy, Grief, and Good Care in the time of COVID." Chelsea will share reflections and snapshots from her work offering spiritual care, emotional support, and crisis counsel to those with and affected by COVID-19 as a full-time hospital chaplain. The forum will offer an opportunity for questions, discussion, and reflection on how the particularities of hospital chaplaincy may offer wisdom and vision for relationships and connection in and out of crisis.



Issue
#590

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Pandemic Food Statistics

Westminster Presbyterian Church became A Hunger Action Congregation in 2019. Based on the Mission Annual Report and other church publications, you understand how we have responded to this crisis but many of us don't understand the scope of need for families in southwestern Wisconsin. Feeding America has projected a 61% increase in food-insecure people for our region which equates to 1 in 8 people facing hunger during the pandemic.

Based on the Pandemic Impact Report from March 15-October 10, 2020, generated by SECOND HARVEST FOOD-BANK of SOUTHERN WISCONSIN, 11,222,898 pounds of food was distributed, a 56% increase over 2019. 40,085 volunteer hours were required to distribute the 477,404 boxes of food providing 9,352,415 meals.

Getting Involved

Are you looking for a way to get involved with our community? Are you wanting to find a way to support others around the world? Westminster's Mission Committee continues to be a part of improving the lives of others so if you are interested in being a part of this important work, please join us on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 8:30 am via Zoom (link to follow). We would love for you to join us! Please contact Sara Hayes (sarawpcmission@gmail.com - 608-709-6768) or Kathy Kamp (kstarrkamp@gmail.com - 608-575-9923) with questions.



Lent in a bag

Children's Ministries will be handing out Lent in a Bag during the February 17th Ash Wednesday drive-thru blessing. These bags contain items to help children countdown the days until Easter. They include Bible readings, thought-provoking discussion questions, and activities. If your family can't come on the 17th, your bag will be delivered.

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Drive-by Ashes from 11a-12:30p at the Yuma Dr. entrance of the church

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday, which is traditionally the beginning of the Lenten season, focuses on the meaning of our mortality, echoing the spirit of this reflective season. Each worshipper at an Ash Wednesday service receives the sign of the cross on his or her forehead with ashes made from the palm branches of the previous Palm Sunday (a big thank you goes to Ruth and Rich Hein for making the ashes for us this year).



Because we are not able to hold our traditional Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes, I am offering a COVID-appropriate way to impose ashes this year. Participants can drive up to the church entrance on Yuma Drive between 11am and 12:30pm on February 17. You can remain in your car, wearing masks. I will be using a mask and disposable finger coverings to impose the ashes so that no one will be touched by bare hands.

Online Worship Post-Covid

Early last fall, the Session committed to making on-line worship services available even after in-person worship is safe and resumes. This decision is informed by the high proportion of members who wanted on-line worship services to be available after in-person worship resumed in a survey completed by more than one-half of the members in early summer 2020.

Accordingly, the Session authorized permanent installation of a camera/recording/streaming system in the sanctuary that will allow high quality recording and streaming of live worship services. Metro Sound and Video of New Berlin, WI has been engaged to supply and install the system. In addition to the recording/streaming equipment and its installation, the cabinet housing the audio and hearing loop equipment at the rear of the sanctuary must be replaced and/or modified to accommodate the new equipment.

Recording/streaming equipment and its installation will cost slightly less than \$10,000 and it is estimated as much as \$5,000 will be needed to replace/modify the cabinet to house it. Thus the total cost will approximate \$15,000. While funds are available in the church's capital improvement fund for this expense, the Session invites anyone who wishes to help offset some of the costs of this new capability to expand the availability of our worship services or other programs to inform Katie Bencze of your interests and intentions.

Our 2021 Lenten Theme
Racial Justice and the Way of the Cross

Join us this Lenten season for an extended conversation about racial justice in Madison and the way of the cross.

Ash Wednesday-February 17. In lieu of an evening worship service, Pastor Scott will be offering the imposition of ashes from 11:00am-12:30p at the Yuma Drive entrance of the church in a COVID appropriate manner.

Sunday Worship-each week Pastor Scott will examine an issue in our holy calling for racial justice and equity as we journey with Jesus towards Holy Week and the cross.

Sunday Adult Forums @11:45a-A joint mission and education planning group will be bringing us six Adult Forums on Sundays via Zoom beginning February 21 featuring a local speaker on some aspect of racial justice in the greater Madison area. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. Pastor Scott's Bible study class will not be meeting during Lent so all of us can participate in these critical conversations.

Lenten Book Study-on Thursdays at 7 pm beginning February 18, Pastor Scott will lead a six-week book study on *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism*. The book is written by Austin Presbyterian Seminary professor Carolyn Helsel based on her years of successful work in leading racism training in congregations. More details about the class below

Lenten Daily Devotional Guide - *Were you There? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals*, written by Luke Powery, the Dean of the Chapel at Duke University. Powery blesses his readers by reflecting on the treasured Spirituals of enslaved Africans concerning their suffering while continuing to trust in God's power of deliverance. Books are \$11 and will be available in the church office the week before Ash Wednesday.

2021 Lenten Congregational Book Study with Pastor Scott

Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism By Carolyn B. Helsel
Six Thursday Evenings on Zoom beginning Feb. 18th 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

"What if I say the wrong thing?" "I'm white--is race really something I need to talk about? I'm worried I'll be called a racist!" "What does race have to do with faith, anyway?" "Why do we have to keep talking about this?"

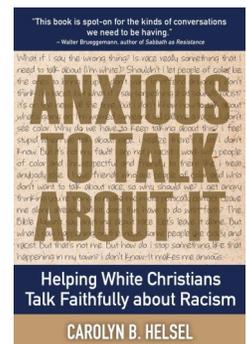
If talking about racism makes you anxious, afraid, or even angry, you're not alone. In *Anxious to Talk about It*, Presbyterian pastor and Austin Presbyterian Seminary professor Carolyn B. Helsel draws on her success with white congregations to offer insight and tools to embrace, explore and work through the anxious feelings that often arise in these hard conversations.

Through powerful personal stories, new observations on racial identity development, and spiritual practices to help engage issues of racial justice prayerfully, you'll gain a deeper understanding of race in America and your place in it. You will learn how to join conversations with courage, compassion, and knowledge of self, others, and the important issues at stake. Helsel's guidance will inspire you to receive the gifts that come through these difficult race conversations and point to how you can get further involved in the important social justice work around race relations.

Weekly Topics:

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| February 18 | The Way We Think About Race (Introduction and Chapter 1) |
| February 25 | Feeling White (Chapter 2) |
| March 4 | Mapping Racial Identity Development (Chapter 3) |
| March 11 | Listening to Different Stories about Race (Chapter 4) |
| March 18 | Expressing Gratitude (Chapter 5) |
| March 25 | Spiritual Practices for Race Talk (Chapter 6 and Conclusion) |

Books are \$16 and will be available in the church office beginning the week of February 1.





Westminster's congregation sets new attendance record for worship!

Be sure to thank Sandy Curran for helping us achieve our new mark of perfect congregational attendance for worship during January 2021. Neither illness, bad weather, the New York Times or the late Saturday nights kept your photo from being at church for worship each week! All kidding aside, seeing these happy faces looking out from the pews has been a real boost to everyone's spirits as our church family weathers the pandemic. We look forward to when we can safely meet in person again. Until then, feel free to stop by during church office hours and take a look at the pews!

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study will begin a new study of the book of Acts starting on February 3, 2021 with Rev. Jessica Salt. The weekly class will run on **Wednesdays, from 12:30-2 pm, via Zoom (or phone), February 3-May 12, 2021.** All are welcome!

"The book of Acts chronicles some of the most important events in Christian history: the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the early church, the scattering of Jesus's disciples around the globe, and more. We will explore the biblical text to better understand the history-shaping events that took place in the years following Christ's resurrection paying particular attention to highlights of the gospel of grace throughout the book, connections with the Bible's overarching story of redemption, and theological doctrines taught or reinforced through Scripture." Please let Katie know if you would like to join and need a book info@westminstermadison.org or 608-238-3121.



Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:
Betty Smith, Dianne Stevens, Lisa Jones, Seema Tahir, Hugh Moss, Carla McCann

LET'S STAY CONNECTED! (call or check your email for more details)

ONLINE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00AM

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS at 12:30pm

VIRTUAL BOOK GROUP THURSDAYS at 10:00am

SUNDAYS ONLINE:

VIRTUAL WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM

ONLINE COFFEE HOUR 11:00AM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL/FORUM 11:45AM



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Judy Pfaehler 02/02
- Connie Dettloff 02/06
- Carl Martin 02/10
- Sam Hermsen 02/12
- Hilda McCreight 02/12
- Jack Browning 02/13
- Mark Tortorich 02/14
- Sydney Krause 02/16
- Lucia Hayes 02/19
- Cynthia Bush 02/19
- Carol Wright 02/20
- John Smith 02/20
- Dorothy Schroeder 02/21
- Ann Rowley 02/22
- Judy Graham 02/25
- Maria T. Springer 02/28
- Susan Webb Yackee 02/28

