



Newsletter

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

17 William Street | Auburn, NY 13021
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Worship with us at 9:30 AM or online
@ WestminsterAuburn.org

MAY, JUNE, JULY 2024

Welcome Rhiannon!



We welcome Rhiannon (Rhi) Nauseef as our new nursery care provider. Rhiannon was born in Auburn and is a graduate of Auburn High School. While attending Auburn High, Rhiannon was part of Julie Liccion's Child Development class. Rhiannon has extensive babysitting

experience with friends and family members. Rhiannon attended Onondaga Community College and hopes to continue her education in History, with special interest in Irish history and Art History. Rhiannon thoroughly enjoys taking care of children and relates well with the little ones. Rhiannon is excited about getting to know everyone at Westminster.

Welcome Caitlyn!



Welcome to our new Children's Worship Center Story Teller Caitlyn Clink. Caitlyn has worked with children at the YMCA, the before and after school program at Herman Elementary School, and as a behavior specialist at Owasco Elementary School. She has a

fun and energetic personality and is able to connect well with children. We are so happy to have her to fill this important role. She loves spending time with her young niece, her dogs, and "hammocking".

Prayground

Something exciting is happening at Westminster Church this summer. A place in our sanctuary is being created for children to take in the sights, sounds and experiences of the church while being in a safe space near their caregivers. This prayground will be a place for families to comfortably enjoy the service together, as well as a place where children can quietly explore, move, create, and learn all while being encircled and embraced as beloved members of the church.

A 2018 Harvard study showed that people who attended religious services at least weekly in childhood and adolescence were more likely to volunteer in their communities, and to have a greater sense of mission, purpose, and forgiveness. The children who walk through the doors of Westminster church with joy and open hearts may also be the future leaders, deacons, volunteers, and elders of Westminster Church. It is the goal of this prayground to create for them fond and meaningful memories, experiences and relationships.

Emergency Drill

As part of Westminster's readiness plans in the event of a fire, bomb threat, or other emergency, there will be an unannounced emergency drill on a Sunday morning in May or June. This will give us the opportunity to be prepared in the unlikely event that a real emergency occurs someday. As a reminder, if we need to evacuate the building(s), we should gather in the lobby of the YMCA next door to "count noses", account for everyone, and provide further instructions.

NEWS AND UPDATES

A Note from Our Pastor



Grace and peace to you my friends, as we embrace Eastertide and spring in upstate New York. It is my privilege to serve with you during an important time of transition, and I want you to know that you are a great church! You are faithful, caring, thoughtful, and fun!

Originally, our plan was to journey together for 4 months, and that season is coming to a close. However, your temporary pastor committee and I have been listening for the movement of the Spirit for our church. On Monday night 4/15, Session approved to extend my contract for another month, which brings us to the end of May. Called to transitional ministry, my call includes listening for the next church who needs a pastor to walk through an important time of transition. Sometimes God's timing is not always our timing, though God's timing is always perfect. Have you heard that saying, 'we plan, God laughs'?!

In this season of Eastertide, I will continue to discern my next call as a transitional pastor, while the PNC continues to work tirelessly on your behalf to bring your next installed pastor to Westminster Church. In the meantime, we have work to do, as we continue to serve, worship, pray, learn, grow, listen, and discern God's will as disciples of Christ, both individually and as a church.

Thank you for your grace and love. It is my privilege and pleasure to serve alongside you during this critical time in the life of this church. As we continue to journey together, let's continue asking where is God in all of this? What is God calling us to do and be? How will we continue to bless the community in and around this place? Friends, you *are* using your gifts and graces for the building of the Kingdom of God. As your temporary pastor, it is my joy and privilege to walk with you during this season in the life of this church, and I can't wait to see what God has planned for us!

May God bless you abundantly during this season of Eastertide!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Pam

Committees are back!

After a 2-year trial period with seasonal ministry teams, the Session has approved a new way forward which blends the best of the seasonal team approach with the best of program committees. We are reinstating the Worship Committee, Christian Ed Committee, Mission Committee, and Membership & Evangelism Committee to advance the work of God at Westminster through cooperative planning and flexible programming. One of the best things we learned from seasonal planning is that people want to serve on things they find energizing and also at times which are convenient to them. Therefore, short term memberships on committees are welcome! Talk to Paul Dungey (Worship), Audrey McNally (CE), Susan Marteny (Mission) and Kim Amidon (Membership) to learn more!

Rummage Sale 2024

Clean out those closets and your kitchen, basement and shed for Rummage Sale 2024 on June 7 from 5 – 8 pm and June 8 from 9 am – 1 pm in The Great Hall. The recipient of the profit will be the Ugandan Family Education Fund which is also the May Loose Change beneficiary. No electronics (old computers and such), moldy books or clothing (donate to the Rescue Mission store). DO NOT leave items in the Work Room or the downstairs hallway; take to the stage in the Great Hall. After-church drop off dates have been scheduled for May 5 and 19. Helpers are needed! Sorting Days are scheduled for May 29 from 1 – 4; May 30 from 4 – 7; June 3 from 10-2; June 4 from 4-7; June 5 from 1 – 4; and June 6 from 3 – 6 pm. Questions? Ready to sign up to sort, price and sell sell sell? Contact Susan Marteny.



NEWS AND UPDATES

Property News



The property committee has been working on several projects and has plans for future ones as well.

The sanctuary's new wainscoting has been stained to match the existing. Much thanks to Sarah Morabito for doing such a great job! The planned

"prayground" area will receive new carpeting, as will the rocking chair area in the back of the sanctuary. New heaters have been ordered and are expected to arrive in late April. They'll be installed at that time.

During the wind storm last month, Westminster sustained some damage. The wind took out a large piece of plexiglass that covered a sanctuary window on the south side of the building, which then blew across the driveway and broke panes of glass in the education building. Plans are underway to make these repairs. The wind also blew away the signage in the sandwich board at the entrance to the parking lot. A replacement is on order. The playground fence is scheduled to be put back up so the Y can again use the area.

Future projects include installation of a new bell cradle in the tower (this will be completed by The McShane Bell Company, probably in the second quarter of this year). The driveway and parking lot will need to be sealed and re-stripped this summer. As is done every year, the slate roof will be inspected and repaired as needed, and the roof over the handicap entrance will be repaired.

Thanks to the hardworking members of the committee: Beth Salvage, Jim Burlingame, Mike Pantoliano, Thomas Fessenden, George Fay, Joe Runkle, Robyn Warn, Beth Salvage and caretaker Shawn Reeves.

Scout News

Pack 43 and Troop 43 have some exciting news! They are adding a new troop to their scouting family, Troop 43G, which currently consists of three young ladies. They are very excited to be Auburn's first female scouts BSA Troop. Andrea Creighton is the scoutmaster. Girls ages 11 through 17 are welcome to join. If you have any questions please contact Andrea Creighton .

Troop 43 had six members get inducted into the Order of the Arrow. The OA recognizes scouts and scouters who best demonstrate the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives. The Troop is very happy to congratulate scouts Ryan Creighton, Acheron Hilton, Evan Payne, Jaden Jones, and Daniel DiMaria and scouter Chris Robson. Congratulations to them all!

Now that the weather is warmer, the Troops and Pack have several hikes planned in the upcoming months. Both Troops also have several camping trips planned.

As always, the troops and pack are looking for new members. Cub scouting is for boys and girls from kindergarten to age 10. BSA troops are for boys and girls aged 11 through 17. Interested families are welcome to come visit any of the meetings. Both the troop and Pack Meet in the junior room at Westminster Presbyterian on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30. Questions may be directed to the following:

BSA Troop 43: Aaron Creighton 413-342-6363

Scouts BSA Troop 43G: Andrea Creighton
413- 455-5988.

Cub Scout Pack 43: Tammy Quimby
315-283-5752.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS

Adult Forums

May 5: Social Justice-Wellness

Gilda Brower with The Human Rights Commission will lead a forum to discuss the correlation between depression, ADHD, inability to sleep, and obesity in students and the presence of cancer, diabetes and other health problems in parents/grandparents.

May 19: Guest speaker from Ukraine

Aliona Abramova, a citizen of Ukraine who has been living in Auburn for two years with the Giangreco family, will offer her perspective on life and traditions in Ukraine and the war which has been raging for over two years.

June 2: ARISE Adaptive Design

Connor McGough, Program Coordinator for the Adaptive Design Program will discuss how community members come together to build customized equipment and devices for adults and children with disabilities.

June 23: Paul Dungey Mission Trip

Paul Dungey will share his experiences as a member of the Fleming Mission Team and their work in Villa Altagracia, an impoverished community in the Dominican Republic. The team will work on construction projects for a medical clinic and a vocational school. They will also be making friends with local villagers, helping with Vacation Bible School, and worshipping together.

Christian Education News

As we near the end of our current program and school year, the newly reactivated Christian Education Committee has much to celebrate: the faith-filled and spirited leadership of Children's and Youth Ministry Coordinator Noel Cregg, the success of the new Sunday School Program "Worship & Wonder", the influx of new volunteers as teachers, greeters, and nursery care providers, the recent hirings of Rhiannon Nauseef and Caitlyn Clink for our young children's programming, and the upcoming recognition of our high school and college graduates! We wish to honor and thank all those who have made this a banner year for Christian Education at Westminster during worship on June 16, where we will observe Baccalaureate and CE Celebration Sunday. We look forward on that day to opening our "Prayground" family worship space and an ice cream social.

Children and Youth Ministries

The kids have been enjoying the "open gym" in the Great Hall. There is a parachute, scooters, basketballs and more. With nicer weather approaching, and the Great Hall being used for the rummage sale, we will take the fun outdoors. There will also be a shift in time to accommodate more families. Children and their families are invited to join bi-weekly playground and park meetups on Mondays from 4-5pm. The information will be posted in the "Westminster Youth" Facebook group, shared with parents via email, and be in the Westminster Instagram. It's a great time for children to build friendships and for parents and caregivers to get to know one another.

In May there will be a youth music event. On Sunday, May 19, from 4-5pm, children of all ages are invited to experience some of the many instruments Westminster has. The teens will be encouraged to help the younger ones, with the guidance of Noel Cregg and Audrey McNally.

In June the Worship and Wonder class will go on a summer sabbath; the last day will be June 16. It is the goal to have the "Prayground" area in the sanctuary open at this time for children to remain in church in an area that's welcoming to them. The Children's Worship Center will also take a break from the traditional stories to explore character building and Biblical read alouds. The nursery will remain available for babies and toddlers up to 3 years old.

The youth event for June will be a story time followed by Lego building, inspired by the book "Building Faith Brick by Brick". This will be for children and teens. Other supplies will be available for them to express themselves following the story if Legos aren't of their interest. There will also be acolyte training this month; a sign up sheet will be made available.

Throughout June and July playground meetups will continue along with other outings and events. Please join our "Westminster Youth" Facebook page to stay up-to-date with all activities, and let Ms. Noel know if you'd like to receive emails as well. Further news will also be shared through the Westminster Instagram.

FELLOWSHIP, OTHER NEWS

New Meditative Walks at Hoopes Park



Join us at Hoopes Park in Auburn which offers a nicely accessible setting for a slow/meditative walk led by Kim Amidon. Walk will include devotional readings along with

mindful steps focusing on the senses. Portion of walk will occur in silence, and portion in silence or conversation, as one chooses. We will meet at the fountain behind the clubhouse on the following Saturdays: May 25, June 22 and July 27 at 9:00 am, "light rain or shine".

Contemplative Hikes

Brian Teucke continues to lead monthly contemplative hikes at area parks and nature trails throughout Central New York. He has planned a great variety of hikes through the end of the year, which allow participants to experience God in the glory of the sun, trees, water, and flowers with which we are blessed in our beautiful environment. On May 18 at 10am, the hike will be at Baltimore Woods in Marcellus. On June 15, it will be at the Dorothy McElroy Bird Sanctuary in Moravia, starting at 9am. On July 20 at 10am, hikers will explore the beautiful Green Lakes State Park in Fayetteville.

Banners

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday occurs in May, a time for churches in our denomination to remember and celebrate our history and our roots. Foundational to our theology and faith understanding as Reformed Christians are 12 creeds, confessions, and catechisms. These historic statements of faith represent our Christian heritage from the Roman Empire to the Reformation to contemporary times and are collected in the Book of Confessions which is part one of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Westminster Church is blessed to be the caretakers of banners symbolic of the first eight of these faith statements. They were designed by Richard K. Avery, pastor and Donald S. Marsh, choir director of the Port Jarvis, New York, Presbyterian Church and lovingly made by volunteer church members in the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse in the early 1990s as a gift to the presbytery to celebrate our confessional traditions and to educate and inform worshipers of the Presbyterian faith heritage.

Westminster's Seasonal Ministry Team has chosen to highlight one of these eight banners each week throughout May and June, beginning with the oldest. Banners in May will feature The Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed, The Scots Confession, and the Heidelberg Catechism. Banners in June will feature The Second Helvetic Confession, The Westminster Confession, The Barmen Declaration, and The Confession of 1967. Check your Sunday bulletins for more information and watch for the unfolding display in the Narthex.

CPR Training

Westminster Church is offering a one-day CPR training class covering infant, child, and adult CPR from 9am to 5pm on Saturday, June 1, in the Social Room. The class will be led by church member Kurt Lavin who has been teaching CPR since 1976. The class can accommodate up to 8 members on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no fee. Contact Linda Russell for more information and to register. Registration deadline is Friday, May 10.

CONTEMPLATIVE HIKES 2024

Commune with God, nurture your body and soul, and find fellowship with others on monthly contemplative hikes with members and friends of Westminster Church.

Sat, March 23 10AM- Carpenter Falls & Bahar Preserve, Niles
Sat, April 20 10AM- Chimney Bluffs, Wolcott
Sat, May 18 10AM- Baltimore Woods, Skaneateles
Sat, June 15 9AM- Dorothy McElroy Bird Sanctuary, Moravia
Sat, July 20 10AM- Green Lakes, Fayetteville
Sat, Aug 17, 9AM- Büttermilk Falls, Ithaca
Sat, Sept 21 10AM- Long Point State Park, Aurora
Sat, Oct 19 11AM- Robert F. Treman, Ithaca
Sat, Nov 16 11AM- Filmore Glen, Moravia
Sat, Dec 21 2PM- Advent hike- location, time TBD

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MISSION AND OUTREACH

May loose offerings support Ugandan Family Education Fund

By Beverly Miller



My husband Bob met Agnes Nagaddya at an internet café in Uganda. He learned that she was striving, not only to survive, but to earn enough to enhance her education. Before Bob left Uganda, she asked him if he would advise and review some of her

essays. They became pen pals through the internet for several years. Bob and I, meanwhile, informed friends at Westminster Church of how difficult it was for young people in Uganda to attend school because of the cost. As a result, our friends and members of the church began to provide resources to aid Agnes with her dream. She finished high school and eventually graduated with a degree in accounting and business management at Makerere University in Kampala. After graduation, with help of Westminster congregation members, Agnes and her sister began a business of designing and sewing dresses to sell in Kampala.

Agnes has inspired many with her commitment to educate the young members of her family. Initially, she brought two nephews from her family to live with her to attend school in Kampala. Both boys have progressed with the financial assistance that Westminster has provided. Presently there are five children from the family that are attending various schools with the help of donations.

A committee has been formed to raise funds for the education of these children. However, with the growing number of children needing education, it was decided that the church would provide \$6,000 this year for Agnes to allocate to their education. It is the committee's hope that they will be able to contribute to the children's education in the future. Along with individual donations from committee members, the loose change in May along with proceeds from the rummage sale will be allocated to help the Ugandan Family Education Fund.

Pentecost Offering

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come -children, youth, and young adults. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost. This year it is on May 19. Your gift helps support Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth and Children-at-Risk.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

One way in which we, the body of Christ at Westminster Presbyterian Church, continue to care for our neighbors, is through our support and volunteerism with the Auburn Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. SHP provides beds and bedding to boys and girls who don't



have a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep upon. There are many upcoming opportunities to be involved in a 'bed-build' activity and there is always a need for contributions of new bedding materials. Ask yourself: "In what ways can I share my gifts, talents, and blessings with my neighbors in need?"

Bed-Build Dates for May-June-July:

Monday, May 6, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday, May 14, 2024 - 4:00pm-7:00pm
Saturday, May 18, 2024 - 9:30am-2:00pm
Thursday, May 23, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm
Saturday, June 8, 2024 - 9:30am-2:00pm
Saturday, July 20, 2024 - 9:30am-2:00pm

WORSHIP

Worship at Westminster

Our theme & scripture verse for the May-June-July season is 'Led by The Spirit'.
John 16: 13. "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth."

Communion will be celebrated during worship on April 7, May 5 and June 2. On June 16 we will honor graduates during our baccalaureate service. A 'hymn-sing' service is planned for June 30th. Worshippers may nominate their favorite hymns from the liturgical seasons of the year! Start naming your favorites!

On that note, does your spirit rise when singing praises to God? You're encouraged to explore this music ministry! Come! Lift up your voice with the choir members who rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:00PM. Gladden your spirit and "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100

Individuals serve in many ways when we worship. Volunteers open and close our church building, serve as ushers; prepare Communion, and more. Westminster's Technology Team seeks volunteers to assist in operating our livestream equipment. Training is provided. You may speak with Paul Dungey to learn more.

"I am the church. You are the church. We are the church, together! All of God's people, all around the world: Yes, we are the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is *the people!*



Mothers' Day Worship

Sunday, May 12 is Mothers' Day. It is the day when mothers are remembered and celebrated. People give flowers, gifts and have family get together to honor their mothers. However, did you know that Mothers' Day originated from a proclamation written by activist and poet Julia Ward Howe in the 1870s? During our service on Mothers' Day, we will read the original Mothers' Day Proclamation for World Peace. We hope you can join us.

Pentecost Forum on life in Ukraine

On Pentecost

Sunday, May 19,

Aliona

Abramova, a citizen of Ukraine who has been living in Auburn for two years with the Giangreco family, will offer

The Lord's Prayer

in Ukrainian during the service and will offer her perspective on life and traditions in Ukraine and the war which has been raging for over two years. Her escape from her home country started almost three years ago, but her husband remains in the country. Aliona is currently a Teacher Aide at Seward Elementary School. Susan Marteney has been her Literacy Volunteer tutor for a year and a half. There will be special Ukrainian treats shared during the coffee hour following worship.



Praise for the singing!

Do you have a favorite hymn? The Worship Committee will be asking for your suggestions as they plan for a hymn-singing celebration

in worship on June 30. Similar in format to a Lessons & Carols order-of-worship, the service will include scriptural references, hymn histories, and personal reflections about beloved worship songs. Look for a hymn survey in upcoming bulletins, or speak to Paul Dungey or Audrey McNally.



Deacons a model of “Pray and Care”

by Linda Mackay

The Deacons abide by the ministry of compassion, witness, service, and sharing God’s love of “Pray and Care, among friends, members and the community. It is crucial that we serve as the “hands, ears and heart of the congregation” reaching those who are oppressed, hungry, sick, lonely, friendless, forgotten or anyone in distress. Here is a brief review of what we are doing.

Calvary Food Pantry- Please continue to provide a non-perishable food item to support the local pantry. Donations can be placed in the wicker basket located on the floor before entering the sanctuary, loose change is collected at the beginning of every month as well.

“Home” Sacrament of Holy Communion-Deacons will gladly bring home communion to those who are ill, housebound or living in a health care setting.

Prayer Chain and Card Ministry-Deacons provide spiritual guidance and encouragement, we ask everyone, How can we help? Our greatest fear is missing someone in need, we appreciate any information about our members who wish to share.

Meal ministry- Westminster has a group of enthusiastic cooks prepared to help with a temporary meal provision. mealtrain.com has been our way of organizing meals and/or provisions after births, surgery, illness or to support a family.

Candlelight Prayer service- all are welcome to attend a community wide, neighbor friendly, contemplative prayer service on May 15 at 5:30 in the Chapel. This “Walk in the Light’ service offers prayer time for healing, strength, assurance, and encouragement. Deacons will be present to offer personal spiritual guidance.

Westminster welcomes everyone, no matter where you are on your faith journey or your life journey. In faithfulness to our understanding of Christ, Westminster affirms the full inclusion of all God’s people in the life and ministry of the church. We welcome persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, family status, ability and economic status into full participation in our faith community. We value questions as much as answers. We encourage curiosity, discovery, and honest struggling with questions of faith.

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