

The Chimes

A Westminster Publication Lent 2022

Coming Home Different

What was he expecting? On the long walk home, as he practiced his speech over and over again—"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son"—what was the Prodigal Son expecting his father to say?

Hard to say, but probably not this: "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!"

What was he expecting? After he had seen Jesus standing on the shore, after he had jumped out of his boat to swim to him, as he stood there, shivering in the early morning chill, looking into the eyes he had last looked into right after he had denied him the third time, what was Peter expecting Jesus to say?

Hard to say, but probably not this: "Simon son of John, do you love me?—Feed my lambs." "Simon son of John, do you love me?—tend my sheep." "Simon son of John, do you love me?—Feed my sheep."

They come home different. The prodigal son different from the young man who brazenly demanded his share of the family fortune and then promptly left home; Peter different from the man who brazenly predicted that he would never, ever deny Jesus, and then promptly did so—three times, no less, in the space of a few minutes. They are different: each has suffered in ways he never expected; each has been humbled, even chastened by events. And yet each still believed—perhaps not expected, but at least still hoped—that he would find some measure of forgiveness, some measure of love, awaiting him: the Prodigal makes the long walk; Peter jumps into the water.

But could either have expected a love like this, the measure of which was beyond all measuring? Not just a meal to eat and a bed to sleep in, but a big party in his honor, the party of all parties? Not just a pardon for past wrongs, but life, a new way of life of serving and loving Jesus' own?

God's love—the father's love for his prodigal son, Jesus' love for Peter—had not changed. What was unexpected was the depth and power of that love. That was revealed in a new way—the power not only to forgive and heal, but to give new life.

It's a question we all have at one time or another, whenever or wherever we come home. Especially when time has changed us, when we've suffered, when we've been humbled, even chastened by events, we all wonder: what will it be like, what sort of reception awaits?

Whenever and however we come home to God—however different things may be, however different we may be, it will be for us like it was for the Prodigal Son, like it was for Peter. We will find mercy and love beyond all measure awaiting us.

So, as we move towards Easter in the weeks ahead, and as we emerge from the pandemic in the months ahead, I invite you to come home to God at Westminster. We're different; things will be different. We've all been changed and suffered in various ways. But what hasn't changed is God's love for us and the world. In fact, I think we'll find that it's deeper and more powerful than we ever imagined. We'll have a party—the Lord's Supper—and we'll find not just forgiveness and healing, but new life—a life of serving and loving Jesus's own.

Life beyond all expectations—that's Easter.



Richard

Lenten Calendar of Events

Ash Wednesday, March 2

12:10 p.m. - Service

6:00 p.m. - Service

Two Identical Taizé Services, including the imposition of ashes for those who desire it.

Westminster Wednesdays

Wednesdays during Lent, March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Join us for intergenerational, family-friendly fellowship and faith formation activities to help deepen our Lenten journey.

Palm Sunday

April 10, 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Communion and Tenebrae Service - Come and experience both the intimate joy of the Last Supper and the descent into darkness as Jesus is arrested.

Good Friday

Friday, April 15, 12:10-1:00 p.m.

Experience the despair and drama of Jesus' last words through scripture and music.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

Two identical services featuring Oakwood Brass with timpani.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received.



The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Deyerle begins ministry Sunday, April 3

On Sunday, January 23, following her message, “Signs of Life,” The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Thomas Deyerle was unanimously affirmed by the Congregation as Westminster’s Designated Pastor for Congregational Care. Caitlin will begin her official responsibilities at Westminster beginning Sunday, April 3.

Caitlin is married to James, who is a mechanical engineer and an ordained Ruling Elder in the PC(USA). Together they have two daughters, Abigail, age 4, and Rose, age 18 months. The family has already found a new house in Dayton, and they are looking forward to getting settled in the community. James is a curling enthusiast and has found a curling club in Dayton.



Caitlin comes to us from Southminster Presbyterian Church in Chesterfield, Virginia, where she has been serving as Pastor and Head of Staff since 2013. She received her Doctor of Ministry in 2020 from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a thesis entitled, “Holy Listening: Creating New Practices of Mission by Extending Pastoral Care Beyond the Walls of the Church.”

A time for meeting and greeting Caitlin, James, Abigail, and Rose will be announced as soon as permitted by our Pandemic protocol. In the meantime, we are in gratitude to God for sending Caitlin and her family to us.



Deacon Ministries in Times of Transition

By Terry Biers

It has now been two years since we have been operating within pandemic protocols; yet there has been an energy—a spirit—of caring that has been palpable among our Deacons and within our ministries. At the beginning of the pandemic, we unavoidably postponed all our ministries except over-the-phone caregiving, sending cards, tending to bereavement concerns and the work of our Loss Support Care Team, and we adapted our Hospital Visitation Ministry Team and Church Partners Ministry Team to serve our members more safely. We were able to creatively modify many of our ministries while inventing new ones. When we could once again return to in-person worship, we resumed Hearing Assistance and Bus Transportation and reactivated our Emergency Response Team. Thanks to the leadership, training, and organization we received from Sue Hamilton, we have been able to keep the work of our Deacons moving forward since her retirement. Our pastoral staff has supported and encouraged all our ministries and programs, and our office staff has come to our aid without hesitation even as they have had to adapt their own work due to Covid and additional responsibilities since Sue's departure.

This past fall, our Flu Shot Clinic and Medicine Drop Off, Fall Work Day (when assistance was provided to members), and Grief Luncheon (provided to members who lost a loved one these past two years) all took place with the cooperation and support of our Westminster staff. We are now able to continue with hearing assistance and hospital flower deliveries, home communions, poinsettia distributions, card deliveries, and medical equipment loans. All this has happened even though our current Board is comprised of two classes of deacons who have never participated in our ministries under normal circumstances. Our Deacon-supported Care Team ministries have stepped up to provide our members the best care possible. The support, trust, and prayers of this congregation have been phenomenal. Truly we have been led by the Spirit who has helped us all hold one another in our hearts.

One day the pandemic will be part of our history, we will all be in-person in worship. Before then our Pastoral Staff will be complete once again. Our relationships and our ministries will evolve and grow. Imagine, just imagine ... as the Spirit continues to lead us.

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.
So then, whenever we have an opportunity,
let us work for the good of all,
and especially for those of the family of faith.
(Galatians 6:9-10)*



Organ Work Continues

Even though the sparkling renovated pipes which project into the Choir Loft give the appearance that the organ work has been completed, many repairs on mechanisms that allow the pipes to sound continue to be on the “to do” list for the Hunt-Krewson Organ Company. Here is a photo of a pouch board that has been perched under one of the main air chests for almost 60 years. All of the leather moving parts which were glued over the holes had deteriorated and have been removed. The holes that are visible in the board will receive fresh new leather. Then those sparkling renovated pipes will sound without issues. Work on the portions of the organ that are not visible from the pews continues!



Here is a photo of a pouch board that has been perched under one of the main air chests for almost 60 years.

A Resident Reflection

By Mary Hoffmann

I can't believe I'm already half way through my time here at Westminster Presbyterian Church. It feels both like I just arrived and have been here forever. In the last six months, I've had the great joy of meeting so many wonderful people in our community and learning more about what I might want to do in my future.

Through Westminster, I've had the opportunity to work with our partner schools (DECA Middle and Eastmont Elementary) to help promote attendance, upgrade the teacher's lounge, and build benches in the Eastmont Gardens. And of course, Gifts from the Heart was a huge project that I enjoyed working on with all of our volunteers and getting to see the kids' happy faces as we delivered the gifts to the schools.

I've also spent time working with our ID Ministry and the Miami Valley Community ID program. Our ID Ministry has opened my eyes to how unfair the system can be to people experiencing hardships, and it means a lot to be able



to help people get their ID/birth certificate. Being present at ID Ministry is one of my favorite parts of the Residency Program. And assisting with the Miami Valley Community ID (MVCID) program has shown me what working with a coalition is like and taught me lots of new computer skills. I've spent many hours learning how the MVCID software works and using that knowledge to build the card design and database. All of that time on the phone with Tech Support has paid off as the MVCID is accepted by several organizations, including the Dayton Police Department, and already been issued to members of our community! These programs have shown me the actual struggles of our most vulnerable neighbors and have been the most rewarding to me.

Outside of work I've had plenty of opportunities to get out of the church and explore Dayton. This fall I went to the Wool Festival in Yellow Springs to get lots of yarn for knitting and even met a woman who invited me to her farm this spring for their sheep shearing. I've attended the Dayton ballet and Philharmonic orchestra, and recently went to see the Troll sculptures in Aullwood Audubon. I also volunteer at 4Paws for Ability in Xenia, where I got to stay overnight with the newborn puppies during Christmas. Plus, I've started a pottery class at the Rosewood Art Center in Kettering, and went to Montreat Conference Center with the college students.

Recently a church member asked if I felt like my time here had been worth it, if it has helped me figure out what's next? My time here has shown me how important helping others in a tangible way is to me. I hope in the future I will be able to work with a non-profit that is focused on serving the underrepresented and less privileged. I want to be able to continue working with volunteers and building relationships in the community. This Residency program and Westminster has shown me what it means to care for your neighbor and what my future might look like in mission work.

I am so happy I've had the opportunity to be here at Westminster Presbyterian with you all and can't wait to see what the next five months will bring! I'd love to get to know more of you, so if you'd like to get together sometime, send me an email (mary@westminsterdayton.org).



Westminster Welcomes New Members on February 6

Ryan and Katie Gilding attended the Christmas in the Stable Service in 2021 and have been back every Sunday since. They have a five-year-old daughter named Abigail who loves coming to Sunday school and choir. Ryan works as the social media and marketing manager for Wright-Patt Credit Union, and Katie is a Literacy Coordinator for Montgomery County ESC.

Laura Middleton has been worshipping with us virtually for a while, and has attended some in-person services earlier in the fall. Her two girls, Jane (12) and Claire (10), have been involved in our Sunday school and choirs. Laura works as a child clinical psychologist at Dayton Children's, and she opened her own, small private practice to help children with their mental health struggles during the pandemic.

Steve Molton has been worshipping with us for a few years, and you may know him as Jennifer de Vries' spouse. Steve is a retired police officer who is now working in public safety at Wittenberg University. Steve has adult children, and he and Jennifer are devoted pet parents to their cats and dogs.

Tyler and Ashley O'Diam began worshipping at Westminster before the pandemic, and in the meantime welcomed their son, Wyatt, who was baptized in worship on February 6. Tyler was born and raised in Slifers Presbyterian Church. Tyler works as a farmer, and Ashley is a teacher at National Trails Local Schools.

Carol Roe recently moved to Miamisburg after spending much of her adult and professional life in Cleveland. Carol is an ordained Deacon and Elder, having served in both offices at Church of the Covenant. She has worked as both a registered nurse and an attorney, and was the mayor of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, for several years. During the new members' class, Carol mentioned that she was looking for an opera buddy to attend the Dayton and Cincinnati opera with, so feel free to take her up on that!

Debbie Ross has been worshipping at Westminster for many years, and her children and family are very active in our children's ministry and choirs. Debbie is a lifelong Presbyterian whose current daily responsibilities include being a stay-at-home parent to her elementary-age children. Her husband, Rob, who is also active in the life of the church, is a minister-member of another Presbytery.



The 2022 Souper Bowl of Caring was held on Sunday, February 13. The Junior High Youth presented a Minute for Mission during worship and collected donations and non-perishable food items to support the Dayton Foodbank.

WISE Update

By Jenne Gross

I would like to thank everyone for the support of this year's Gifts from the Heart. This amazing program has been a part of Westminster for over 20 years, and I continue to be humbled by the commitment and dedication I see each year. All of the families were adopted, and over 100 children received gifts. Several members donated to the WISE Emergency Fund, and through these donations the WISE Ministry was able to assist four families who were in great need with rent, utilities, and food assistance. Eastmont and DECA families have faced trying times this last year, and I am grateful our ministry has been able to help when called upon.

As we approach spring, there will be an increase in opportunities to get involved with WISE. Here are just a few of the upcoming events: Right to Read at Eastmont, Book Clubs will be starting with DECA students, and ongoing support and encouragement initiatives at both schools. Please check your email for more details and to find out about opportunities to get involved!

Westminster Young Adults attended the 2022 Montreat College Conference, January 2-5. The theme of this year's event was, "What's Next!"



The Annual Youth Lock-in was held on Friday, February 11. The PYC, our youth leadership team, decide that we would not do an overnight event this year due to Covid, but we had a great time hanging out, playing games, and eating pizza and donuts. We enjoyed a candlelight vespers service in the Sanctuary with a sung liturgy that Mary Hoffman and Jason Steiner introduced to us. And in addition to all that, the youth prepared 31 care packages to be sent to our Westminster college students.



Presbyterian Heritage Sunday was observed on Sunday, January 30, at 10:00 a.m., with the Miami Valley Pipes and Drums. Members and friends of the congregation were encouraged to wear any Tartan or plaid that they may have such as skirts, kilts, and ties. This was a day to be Scottish, no matter what your heritage.



Children's Ministry Update

By Kylie Hettinger

The children's ministry ended the 2021 year with our Christmas in the Stable program on Christmas Eve. This year we did an adapted Christmas story with participation from our children. Everyone had a great time!

2022 has been great thus far! Our Pre-K and K class has been learning about Moses, and our 1st - 6th grade classes have been learning about Daniel! In February we had our Ice-Skating afternoon. We also had a PJs and movie day to wrap up our unit on Daniel. We are hoping to do an earth cleanup day in the spring. Be on the lookout for more details.



Westminster Families enjoyed a fun afternoon ice skating at RiverScape MetroPark on February 6. Follow us on social media and visit our website for more activities!

Among our People

Deaths

Hewitt Mulford	Nov. 29, 2021
Marsha Danzig	Jan. 8, 2022
Judith "Judy" McDougal	Jan. 21, 2022
Michael Gregory	Jan. 25, 2022
Ann Stover	Feb. 20, 2022

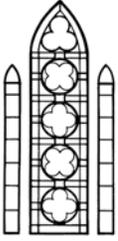
Births

Kilian Ernest Justice	Feb. 23, 2022
Son of Keegan and Allison Justice	

Baptisms

Wyatt James O'Diam	Feb. 6, 2022
Son of Tyler and Ashley O'Diam	

Gwyneth Annabelle Ford	Feb. 27, 2022
Daughter of Aven and Caelen Ford	



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