BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN IBRAM X. KENDI TO SPEAK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, April 20 • 6:00 p.m. (postponed)

Westminster’s Peace and Justice Work Group, in collaboration with YWCA Delaware, the Delaware Community Foundation and JP Morgan Chase, is excited to host Ibram X. Kendi, author of “How To Be An Antiracist,” which debuted at #2 on the New York Times Bestseller List in August 2019. Prior to that, at age 34, Dr. Kendi became the youngest-ever recipient of the National Book Award for “Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America.”

A sought-after public speaker, Dr. Kendi has delivered hundreds of addresses at colleges and universities, bookstores, festivals, conferences, libraries, churches, and other institutions in the United States and abroad.

To get your ticket(s) to what promises to be a highly popular event, visit: www.eventbrite.com/e/ywca-de-stand-against-racism-with-dr-ibram-kendi-tickets-98410336967

Mark your calendar for April 20 and get a head start in reading “How To Be An Antiracist.” Copies are available in the Westminster library!

Academic Background
Attending Florida A&M University initially majoring in journalism, Ibram Kendi added a second major in African American Studies and graduated in 2004. He earned his doctoral degree in African American Studies from Temple University in 2010.

Dr. Kendi began his career as an assistant professor of African American history in the SUNY system before moving to the University of Florida and now to American University in Washington, DC, where he is a full professor of history and international relations and the Founding Director of The Antiracist Research & Policy Center.

Dr. Kendi has received research fellowships, grants, and visiting appointments from a variety of universities, foundations, professional associations, and libraries, including the Lyndon B. Johnson Library & Museum, University of Chicago, Brown University, Wayne State University, Emory University, Duke University, Princeton University, UCLA, Washington University, Wake Forest University, and the historical societies of Kentucky and Southern California. In 2019, The Root 100 listed him as the 15th most influential African American between the ages of 25 and 45 and the most influential college professor. He was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship in 2019.
How have you spent these days of Lent? Have you marked each day by giving up something or by taking on something new? Closed off from the world by the Coronavirus, I hope you have been spending more time in prayer, more time with scripture, more time reflecting on the deeper purposes of your life.

Our Lenten journey is reaching its end as we approach the most compelling week on the Christian calendar – Holy Week. This pivotal week is the apex of the Christian year, bringing us celebration, darkness, lament, and when all seems lost, VICTORY.

We begin on Palm (or Passion) Sunday as we remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. The streets are teeming with people waving palm branches and shouting “Hosanna!” (“Save us!”). The days that follow transport us through the dramatic cleansing of the temple and the disturbing cursing of the fig tree that bears no fruit. On Thursday, the mood becomes somber as Jesus gathers for a meal with his closest followers one final time. Once all of his friends have arrived, Jesus washes their feet and commands them to love one another and to serve one another as a humble servant. As they break bread together, Jesus instructs them to remember him whenever they share a meal. The drama reaches its depths when Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. After rising from prayer, Jesus is betrayed, arrested, whipped, unjustly tried and finally crucified in front of his grieving mother and close friends. Friday marks the dark day that would have been remembered throughout history as Horrible and Hopeless Friday if it had been the end of Jesus.
However, the story has not reached its conclusion! On Sunday morning new light breaks forth. Victory triumphs over defeat and hope replaces despair as new life emerges from death. 

Some close their eyes to the sad and gruesome moments of Holy Week, preferring to skip from Jesus’ celebratory entrance into Jerusalem to the empty tomb and his resurrection from the dead. 

However, such an approach leads to an illusory portrait of the Christian faith. The life of a Christian believer does not leap from one mountaintop to another. As this worldwide pandemic drives the point home to us, the journey of life carries us through dark valleys as well as radiant peaks. 

To experience the resurrection to new life after the triumphant entry into Jerusalem is one thing. To experience the resurrection to new life following the darkest moments of life is quite another. 

COVID-19 provokes fear, anxiety, anger, despair, and even death. I pray it will also remind our world of the precious gift of life and how we dare not fritter away the time we have. I pray it will teach people to love each other and to care for the most vulnerable. I pray it will drive people closer to God, our only firm foundation of hope. 

Whether we are together in person or in spirit, may your Holy Week experience be profound and precious and lasting. 

Blessings, 

[Signature]
Holy Week at Westminster

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 5
Worship – 9:00 a.m. (online)
Rejoice as we begin the journey of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday – April 9
Worship – 7:00 p.m. (online)
A few of Westminster's storytellers will enhance this service.

Good Friday – April 10
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Reflect on the crucifixion through silent prayer and meditation safely in your home.

Easter Sunday – April 12
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Easter Breakfast in Community Hall prepared by the Deacons (cancelled)

9:00 a.m. (online)
Christ is risen! Join us for a festive worship service celebrating Christ's triumphant resurrection, with an inspirational sermon by Dr. Jones.

10:15 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt (cancelled)
GET READY FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020!

Mark your calendars for KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE, July 27-31, at Westminster! We’ll have all kinds of fun learning about the armor of God. Kids pre-k to rising 6th grade are welcome, whether Westminster members or not! Stay tuned for registration.

Are you a teen or adult who is interested in helping make Westminster’s VBS a success? Contact Robin Rosser at rlrosser@aol.com. Can’t make it for the week but still want to help? Consider donating the cost of ministering to a child at VBS this summer by cash or check for $25 to Chesna Hinkley.

SATURDAY BREAKFAST CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Saturday Breakfast is celebrating 30 years of service by launching “30 for 30” – 30 people, couples, families or groups who will give a Saturday to help at Saturday Breakfast. Participants will receive a Saturday Breakfast t-shirt. The good news is that a dozen people have already volunteered, so we are looking for 18 more people to make our goal of 30. Be on the lookout for the sign-up poster. We look forward to serving breakfast with you.
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Lent is a time of “re-alignment.” As Christians, we use this reflective and holy season to consider what it means to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in a weary world. We renew our alignment with Christ through practicing generosity and re-committing ourselves to the work of justice.

As you know, Westminster supports many urban and global ministries with volunteers and financial gifts. But the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering gives us a chance to join in the broader mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with congregations throughout the country. Through the generosity of many, the greater church impacts the lives of sisters and brothers who have been affected by disaster, who are afflicted by hunger, or who suffer injustice. This offering supports three vital ministries which provide hope, help, and empowerment to people in more than one hundred countries throughout the world:

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and provides support for refugees.

- **Presbyterian Hunger Program** takes action to alleviate hunger and care for creation, and addresses the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

- **Self-Development of People** invests in communities that are responding to their own experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.
We will receive this year’s One Great Hour of Sharing offering in worship on **Palm Sunday, April 5** and will gratefully accept your gift to OGHS through May 10. Please make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write “OGHS” in the memo line. You may also give online through the Westminster website; visit [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org) and click “Donate Now.”

During this holy season, let us prayerfully consider our commitment to share God’s abundant love with neighbors near and far.
APRIL 5

The Humanity of God

Classroom 6
Chesna Hinkley

In preparation for Holy Week, Chesna will teach on Karl Barth’s essay “The Humanity of God.” We will draw on themes in this piece to explore Jesus’ journey to the cross, God’s humility, and the meaning of Easter for us.

The Qur’an

Classroom 5
Bob Cox and Kara Francis

An exploration of the literary, theological, and historical influences behind the Qur’an. We’ll use video lectures, presentations, and classroom discussions to discuss what is and is not in this text over 1.3 billion consider sacred. It will surprise you.

APRIL 12

Happy Easter! No Christian Education.

APRIL 19

Aaron Henry and Mississippi Civil Rights

Classroom 6
K.C. Morrison

K.C. Morrison is a member of our congregation and Professor at the University of Delaware School of Public Policy and Administration. In 2015, K.C. published the book Aaron Henry of Mississippi: Inside Agitator. Aaron Henry (July 2, 1922 – May 19, 1997) was an American civil rights leader, politician, and head of the Mississippi branch of the NAACP. He was one of the founders of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party which tried to seat their delegation at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. The book was the 2016 Winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award. K.C. will talk about Aaron Henry, the book, and his impact on civil rights in Mississippi.
How to Pray with Other People

Classroom 5
The Rev. Jill Getty
For many of us, few things are more intimidating than praying out loud for someone else, but this is a powerful ministry of the people of God that can have a great impact on others. Learn practical skills and spiritual wisdom from the Stephen Ministers training program to become more comfortable with spontaneous intercessory prayer.

APRIL 26

Senator Tom Carper on Climate Justice

Classroom 6
Hear from U.S. Senator Tom Carper on earth care, climate justice, and recent legislation. He is the top Democrat on the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee.

Security at Westminster

Classroom 5
Security Committee
Learn about Westminster’s security protocols and plans for evacuation in an emergency. This presentation will take place twice.

MIDWEEK OPTIONS

Eat and Exegete

Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
OR
Thursdays 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Church Library
Chesna Hinkley
This drop-in Bible study meets weekly to read through the Bible together. No homework, no commitment — come when you can! Bring a bag lunch or dinner, if you like.

Book Study: The Friendship of Women – The Hidden Tradition of the Bible by Sr. Joan Chittister

Thursdays, April 23 and 30, May 7 and 14, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Church Library
Chesna Hinkley and Margo Reign
All genders welcome for this brief book on theological concepts of friendship and the women of the Bible.
180 YOUTH

Youth in grades 6 to 12 meet from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on select Sundays in Community Hall. Join us for dinner, games, and small groups! Upcoming dates to be determined.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR CHIMES DELIVERY PREFERENCE?

In 2015, an effort was made to communicate with our church members on how they would like to receive The Westminster Chimes newsletter. Many of you opted to receive the Chimes online to save the church on postage costs, and we sincerely thank you for your consideration for the church’s finances. However, we understand that every household is different, so we want our members to know that they are welcome to receive the Chimes however they would like.

If you would like a paper copy delivered to your home, that is no problem! Alternatively, if you are receiving a paper copy, but would like to receive it online only, we can make that change too.

Please contact Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications, at nhughes@wpc.org or (302) 654-5214 ext. 130 to change your Chimes delivery preference. Please specify online only, mail only, or both online and mail. Nicole will also confirm your valid email address and/or mailing address to ensure successful delivery.

As a reminder, copies of the current issue of the Chimes are always available on the literature table at church for those who prefer to take one at their convenience. We do not need to be notified if you prefer this method. Please take several for your friends and family!
WOMEN’S SOUND HEALING PROGRAM

Saturday, May 9
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Rodney Chapel

POSTPONED!
New date to be determined.

A Women’s Sound Healing program will be presented by Patricia Blackman-Hill in Rodney Chapel from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Cost is $20. Space is limited to 25 participants. Friends are welcome.

Patti is a Master’s level Registered Nurse certified in Healing Touch and Aromatherapy and has studied Sound Healing for several years. Sound Healing has been utilized in many cultures as a tool for healing for thousands of years. Researchers have linked it to the health benefits of stress reduction, decreased anxiety and depression, increased memory, decreased blood pressure, pain reduction, immune system increase and improved sleep. Patti will use crystal bowls, drums and other instruments in her program to move us from a place of imbalance to a place of balance.

Participants are requested to wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat, pillow, blanket, a small towel to cover their eyes, and water. Chairs will be available if lying on the floor is uncomfortable.

To attend, please complete the registration information below and return it to Judy Stoddard (hand deliver to her at church or mail to 20 Centerville Terrace, Wilmington, DE 19808), including a check for $20 made out to Patricia Blackman-Hill. We hope you will join us for an enjoyable and healing program.

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Women’s Sound Healing Program  |  Date: TBD  |  10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  |  Cost: $20

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Home phone: ___________________________  Cell: ___________________________

☐ Check attached.  ☐ Please have a chair available for me.

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The Westminster CHIMES
WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**Donna and John Carpenter** are from Mannington, New Jersey. They have two married children: Jack, who lives in Wilmington with his wife Mairead, and Elizabeth, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with her husband Patrick. John and Donna also have a Boykin Spaniel and two cats and are adding a puppy to the family in April. John owns Carpenter Tree, Lawn and Landscape, and Donna teaches AP English literature at Kingsway High School in New Jersey. Donna also works part-time for College Board and Educational Testing Service. Donna and John met as Juniors at Woodstown High School and enjoy biking through their South Jersey farming community, spending time with their family, traveling and reading. John and Donna are life-long Presbyterians and feel spiritually renewed by Greg and Sudie’s messages. They started attending Westminster (with Donna’s parents, Carl and Barbara Ohmott) in April 2019.

**Barbara Ohmott** was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey and grew up in Jamesburg in central New Jersey. Upon high school graduation, she attended Rider College and Glassboro State College. Barbara’s career was in teaching and, later, in school administration in Woodstown, New Jersey. **Carl Ohmott** is also from Jamesburg and has lived in the South Jersey area for approximately 54 years due to job transfers. Barbara and Carl have been married for 64 years (they were high school sweethearts!). They have two children: Donna Carpenter of Mannington, New Jersey and Edward Ohmott, who resides in Oakland, California. They also have two grandchildren: Jack, who lives in Wilmington and Elizabeth, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. In retirement, Carl spends his time trying to play golf. Barbara enjoys reading, playing cards, gardening, and especially walking their Cocker Spaniel, Oscar. Together, Barbara and Carl enjoy traveling, going to the movies, and dining out with family and friends. Carl and Barbara have found that Westminster Presbyterian Church has a philosophy that meets their needs and inspires their lives.
Fred Longacre and Julia Sperry moved from Mamaroneck, New York to Cokesbury Village in Hockessin a few years ago. They relocated to be near Julia’s brother and sister-in-law, who are retired Tatnall School teachers. Fred was born in Schenectady, New York and lived in the small town of Galway, New York from age 7 to 18. After graduating from Carleton College in 1963, Fred spent his career as an insurance agent/financial counselor for Northwestern Mutual Life in New York City. He retired in 2011. Most recently, Julia ran a Cooperative Gallery in Larchmont, New York, where she also exhibited her own artwork. During their many years in Mamaroneck, Fred and Julia were very active in the Mamaroneck United Methodist Church before joining Stanwich Congregational Church in Greenwich, Connecticut, where they had a wonderful woman minister. When they first came to Delaware, they attended Trinity Community Church at Wilmington Christian School, but decided that they needed a more traditional worship service. Their friends, Don and Jan Beddie, brought them to several musical offerings at Westminster and frequently sent them church literature, knowing that they were “searching.” They are especially impressed by the outreach Westminster does in the community. Julia and Fred are involved with Cokesbury Village’s White Elephant Sales, are active in local progressive politics, and enjoy playing tennis. Julia also continues to create art.

The Rev. David Robertson moved to Delaware from New Jersey in January 2019 to be close to his son and granddaughter. The timing was great since his granddaughter graduated from Centerville in May. Dave has been an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC) since 1971 and has been involved in the insurance industry since 1978; he would get a kick out of mentioning to folks, “I can sell ‘fire insurance’ seven days a week!” Dave looks forward to getting involved with this tremendous church and the Presbyterian Church (USA), which is the closest denomination to his native UCC.
EARTH CARE: CREATING YOUR OWN EDEN, PART 1

We are called as Christians to care for God’s creation, and there are many practical ways to do so. What follows is one way to help improve the sustainability of the planet.

April is a great time to do landscaping, so how can yard work promote environmental sustainability? The Earth Care Task Force has found so many ways to do so that we’ve split the information into two articles. Here, we focus on native species, vegetable gardening, and bee-friendly plants, whereas the May/June Chimes will feature an article discussing your lawn, trees and woodpiles.

In his book Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard, Doug Tallamy states that nearly 90% of the land in the U.S. is privately owned, so the responsibility for preserving the environment largely falls on private landowners. Therefore, homeowners with their own yards need to take responsibility for their roles as stewards of the environment. Some ways you can help the environment are:

1. **Planting native species.** Since plants are a key part of the local ecosystem, it is important to plant native species since they are more efficient than invasive species in providing food for native animals. For example, 5% of native plants provide 75% of the caterpillar food that supports our food web, and caterpillars are a key food source for birds. You can find the native plant species for your area, including the types of butterflies and moths they attract, using the website [www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder](http://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder). In addition, use yellow LEDs or motion sensors on lights near native plants since native moths are attracted to white light, exhausting themselves and highlighting themselves as easy prey.
2. **Grow your own vegetable garden.**
   You can help the environment by using your kitchen food waste as compost to fertilize the garden. Also, growing your own food reduces the emissions associated with transporting food from other areas to your home; the figure shows the long distances produce generally travels to reach your grocery store. The figure shows California is a major produce grower, so consider growing some of the items that normally come from that state. Growing your own food also promotes fruit and vegetable consumption, which has a lower carbon footprint than meat. Finally, note that several of these vegetables are grown in Westminster’s vegetable garden.

3. **Plant bee-friendly flowers.** Bees provide the necessary pollination to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Bee-friendly plants include lavender, allium, cotoneaster, foxglove, holly hock, lupin, lamb's ears, geraniums, oregano and wisteria. Some of these plants, while not native, are still favorites of honeybees and native bees (wild bees), which pollinate our native plants and support our ecosystem. Also, many native plants not listed here are also friendly to native bees.

Further reading:
SAFEGUARDING AGAINST IMPOSTER SCAMS – A LETTER FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

February 12, 2020

Dear Faith Based Partner,

The Number 1 reported fraud in the United States in 2019 was the imposter scam: con artists pretend to be Social Security employees and call potential victims to inform them of a problem with their Social Security number or account. The scam callers demand immediate payment by cash, gift cards, pre-paid debit cards or wire transfer to rectify “the problem” and make threats to encourage would-be victims to comply. Perhaps you have received such a call on your landline or cell phone. In recent months, hundreds of thousands of people have reported being victimized by these and similar scams. The figure does not include those too embarrassed to tell anyone or to make a report.

While these scammers target anyone, many victims are elderly, often those who have no close family or friends to warn them about these fraudulent calls. It occurred to me that many of our older citizens are active in their church, synagogue or other religious organization. Since you have been a willing partner with the Social Security Administration in the past, you might be in the best position to warn your members to be alert for these calls and advise them to hang up immediately to avoid becoming a victim.

Enclosed is a Social Security Administration publication with guidance on how people can protect themselves from Social Security Phone Scams. If possible, please display this in a prominent location where the greatest number of members are likely to see it. If you could use more copies or a Spanish version, please e-mail phi.rpa@ssa.gov with your name, organization, address and quantity desired, and we will mail you a supply.

In addition, if you produce and distribute an internal publication, such as a weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter, perhaps you can warn your members by inserting the following blurb:

Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams

Telephone and email scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or legal action. Do not be fooled!

1. HANG UP!
2. Do not give money or personal information
3. Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov

I thank you for your continued support.

Daniel N. O’Connor
Philadelphia Regional Communications Director
Social Security Administration
Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams
Be on the lookout for fake calls and emails

Telephone and email scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled!

If you receive a suspicious call:
1. HANG UP
2. DO NOT GIVE MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION
3. REPORT THE SCAM AT OIG.SSA.GOV

What to look out for

- The caller says there is a problem with your Social Security number or account.
- Scammers pretend they're from Social Security or another government agency. Caller ID or documents sent by email may look official but they are not.
- Any call asking you to pay a fine or debt with retail gift cards, wire transfers, pre-paid debit cards, internet currency, or by mailing cash.
- Callers threaten you with arrest or other legal action.

Be Alert
Social Security may call you in some situations but will never:
- Threaten you
- Suspend your Social Security number
- Demand immediate payment from you
- Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
- Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash

Be Active
Protect yourself, friends, and family!
- If you receive a questionable call, hang up and report it at oig.ssa.gov
- Don't return unknown calls
- Ask someone you trust for advice before making any large purchase or financial decision
- Don't be embarrassed to report if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss
- Learn more at oig.ssa.gov/scam
- Share this information with others
PROPERTY NEWS: 
THE RUTH CHRISTIE ROOM

Have you ever found yourself lost within the maze of spaces at Westminster? Where is the Library? How do I find the Club Room? Can you direct me to the Youth Music Room? Westminster’s floorplan documents the evolution of a structure that has undergone enormous change over the past 138 years. A succession of building campaigns has left us with some puzzling hallways and out-of-the-way rooms. One such space, tucked behind Rodney Chapel, is the Ruth Christie Room. Over the next year, the Property Committee will freshen the room’s appearance, beginning with a new coat of paint in the coming months. Our thanks to the Phix-It Corps, Gary Bryde, Wendy Hatch, and Paul Crothamel for taking on this project.

Over the years, many of us have gathered in the Ruth Christie Room. We have used it for a great many purposes, from Godly Play for children during a church service to a site for families to gather before a memorial service or a wedding. But do we know its history? That tale begins in 1904, when Westminster was known as the Rodney Street Presbyterian Church and looked very different than it does today. Clad in brick and designed in the Gothic Revival style, the church had undergone two phases of construction in 1882 and 1888. By 1904, further space was needed to accommodate the growing congregation. A two-story addition at the east end of what is now Rodney Chapel was grafted...
onto the church. The upper space eventually became the Ruth Christie Room, while below, along 13th Street, was a room for infant care, now the Club Room. This expansion was followed just six years later by a much larger project, the erection of the glorious stone sanctuary that we enjoy today and the resurfacing of the older building with matching stone. The new structure no longer faced Rodney Street but looked out upon Pennsylvania Avenue, a change in orientation which prompted the congregation to rename the church. On June 22, 1910 our forebears approved the new title: Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Ruth Christie had a long association with the room that bears her name. Wife of the beloved pastor, Dr. John Christie, she became an invaluable contributor to the life of Westminster from the moment the two of them arrived in December 1931. Over the next 25 years, she organized women within the church to make clothes for people in need, led Bible studies, prayer groups, and a book club, and oversaw meetings of the Women’s Association — all usually within this room. On February 3, 1964, the women of the church recognized Ruth Christie’s exceptional devotion to Westminster by naming the room in her honor. Sadly, the ceremony came just one month before Ruth Christie’s death. Yet at that dedication, the mood was one of joyful gratitude. Mrs. Sanford J. Hill recalled “the warmth of... [Ruth’s] friendship, the wisdom of her advice, the gentle firmness of her leadership, ... [and] especially her sympathy and concern for, and knowledge of, our individual women.” Ruth Christie ranks among Westminster’s most valued servants. Her outstanding service reminds us too of the remarkable contributions made by so many of the women of Westminster. These saints deserve our deepest thanks and appreciation.
AFGHAN REFUGEE FAMILY CELEBRATES ITS SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION INTO OUR COMMUNITY

As anniversaries go, this has been a joyful one. **Three years ago**, the congregations of Westminster Presbyterian, Beth Shalom and Hanover Presbyterian collaborated to welcome an Afghan refugee family, the Mohammadis, into our community. Soon thereafter, it was recognized that the needs of this family required shepherding through the many facets of American life. Thankfully there were volunteers from the three congregations poised to support. Today, the family is in its third home, with the parents, Sadiq and Maryam, now licensed drivers with their own car and own home.

Backing up a few decades, “our” refugee family had grown up with constant conflict. Moving to avoid warfare was futile, as war was inescapable. Despite this, both parents persevered and completed four-year college degrees, with Sadiq’s in English literature and Maryam’s in economics. As Sadiq was contracted to the U.S. military as a clandestine translator, life became more difficult and the Mohammadi family was at risk with multiple death threats. Learning of an immigration program to give relief to those who assisted our armed forces, the family began the arduous task of gaining approval to come to the U.S. After three years of intense, truly microscopic scrutiny, their immigration was finally approved. All friends and family were sadly left behind with the painful belief that they might never again be seen.
On a snowy evening, the Mohammadi family arrived with absolutely nothing but a few suitcases of clothing. The family was shocked to be warmly welcomed in the U.S. as family. Their apartment had been previously furnished by the three congregations and the cupboards stocked with supplies and food. The daughters, Mahnaz and Mahdiyah, were soon enrolled in school and daycare; Sadiq’s first employment as a cashier at a Shop-Rite was landed; and English language assistance from Literacy Delaware was arranged. And dental work! Lots of dental effort was donated so Sadiq had a smile for the first time! At 2 and 8 years of age, the girls had never been allowed to play outdoors due to both wild dogs and the Taliban! The outdoors opened up a new world. No longer smothered by Taliban-style gender inequality, these girls and their mother have bright futures indeed.

Overcoming the fear of coming to a new land, immersion in a foreign culture and possession only of a one way ticket defines true bravery! As stated by the family, “We never wanted to be a burden on anyone. We knew we needed to work our very hardest to make this work.” Sadiq now works at a prominent law firm. The girls are now 5 and 11 years old, a new baby boy, Erfan, has blessed the family, and they are becoming Americans.

Sadiq made a plea to our congregation to continue to help refugees:

_They are not safe in their country. They are in danger. They have had to pass many dangerous barriers to get to a safer place. Many of them were killed when attempting to pass through these barriers. They are so tired. They have nothing. They are so helpless – they did not choose this for themselves, nor did they want to be refugees and leave their homelands. You see the news about them; you see their faces on the TV. It is so sad – their world is dark and meaningless. Those children deserve a chance to sleep one night quietly, far from gunfire sounds, in a shelter with a roof over their heads. I know, after passing all these barriers and finally getting here, they won’t just sit in their homes and wait to be fed. They will work very hard, not only to stand on their own feet, but to be a great asset to build this country. They deserve to have dreams or hopes and your assistance can help them successfully move into their new future._

_For Christian context, read Matthew 25._
In recent years, researchers have championed the disciplined study of music as one of the most effective means of increasing academic success and social-emotional learning.

The Choir School of Delaware has a long tradition of excellence, with a legacy of more than 130 years training young choristers to harmonize their voices while enriching their lives.
Historically known as the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware, it provides professional musical training, leadership and language skills, academic support, and college-bound mentoring in an intergenerational environment for youth in Wilmington and surrounding regions.

- **Academics & Enrichment:** Activities every afternoon, and one-on-one mentoring once a week

- **Music:** Professional, one-on-one piano, voice and musicianship lessons once a week

- **Performances:** Rehearsals two nights a week, plus numerous public performances

- **Health & Wellness:** Nutritious meals provided by the City of Wilmington

- **Tuition:** Full merit scholarships for every student made possible by donors

This after school program, which runs from September through May each year, serves at-risk students ages 7-17 in the greater Wilmington area. Ninety-two percent of the students need help with transportation and 87% qualify for free lunch plans. One hundred percent of these students graduate high school with a GPA of at least 2.0.

*Continued on page 24*
The Choir School was invited to perform at the 2020 American Choral Directors Association Conference in Rochester, New York, from March 3 to 5, an extraordinary honor – one of just 13 choirs chosen to perform from a pool of hundreds of applicants.

Preparing for a polished performance at ACDA benefits students in a profound way. The Choir, however, could not perform at its best without all of its members; each voice is important to its sound and success. That said, these students come from low-income families who do not have the resources to support such an important and meaningful experience.

The Westminster Urban Mission Committee was delighted to support the Choir School’s attendance at this Conference by donating $1,000 to sponsor a chorister and chaperone. These funds came from the proceeds of the Westminster Bazaar, yet another example of the many ways we are fortunate to be able to build community and support children and youth in our city.

For more information on the Choir School, visit www.choirschoolofdelaware.org.

While the performances are the most visible element of the Choir School’s program, the everyday, “behind-the-scenes” after-school experience is the most valuable and relevant to the success of these students. There is an increasingly vital need for safe, productive after-school places where “at-risk” children can access the support needed to improve academically, develop their personal goals through effective mentoring, and gain self-confidence to pursue their goals into adulthood, breaking the generational cycle of poverty.
WESTMINSTER DONOR MAKES $10,000 CHALLENGE GRANT TO GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

Blessings abound! An anonymous donor from Westminster Presbyterian Church has given a $10,000 challenge grant to the Guatemala Partnership. This gift is intended to spark other members of our congregation to become involved and support the many dynamic projects of this partnership.

“We are speechless,” remarked Cathy Higgins, co-chair of this partnership. “This gift truly celebrates the hard work of our sisters and brothers in Guatemala and underscores the importance of supporting development projects beyond our walls and borders.”

So how can you participate?

Several times during the year, the Guatemala partnership will promote a specific project such as fuel-efficient stoves, microloans, or family gardens. Every gift made by a Westminster member toward these projects WILL BE MATCHED – dollar for dollar – up to the $10,000 total.

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To kick things off this Spring, the donor has agreed to MATCH every donation made by the youth traveling to Guatemala on the Youth Partnership Trip (postponed to June 2021). But each traveler is still encouraged to contribute/raise $140 for a fuel-efficient stove. Now their donations will be doubled!

Then, during Advent, we plan to launch a new Guatemala project as part of our annual Echo-Giving campaign. Contributions made during this time will also qualify for a match. Stay tuned for details.

Don’t want to wait? That’s fine too! Any gift made during the year in support of the Guatemala Partnership is eligible for a match. For more details, visit www.ncpguatemala.com or contact Carrie Saathoff.

We are grateful for the vision, creativity, and generosity of this anonymous donor. Thank you!
NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY’S IGNITE “COMBUSTION CHAMBER” BLOWS OUT $13,000 GRANT

Presbyterians founded the Protestant Printing Press for Kasai (IMPROKA) in 1903 to provide Christian literature to surrounding churches and organizations. This perennially successful business is self-sustaining while even contributing $2,000 annually to the Presbyterian Church of Congo (CPC). This New Castle Presbytery grant for a major capital upgrade will further IMPROKA’s economic and spiritual goals.

Our Presbytery’s IGNITE program allows churches within the Presbytery to collaborate in shared projects for expanded impact. The New Castle Presbytery’s Congo Partnership includes five churches: Elkton Presbyterian, 1st Presbyterian of Newark, Westminster Presbyterian of Rehoboth, Dover Presbyterian and our own Westminster Presbyterian of Wilmington.

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IMPROKA currently prints Christian literature for surrounding churches, Sunday school certificates, hymnals, brochures, and office supplies for hospitals and schools. It also operates a respected internet café where instruction in computer skills and English is available. With the new printing press and binding machine their director, Simon Ntumba, predicts that the expanded size and scope of materials will open new markets. Larger contracts can now be processed such that for materials produced for the Healing Hearts Ministry, an interfaith endeavor working to train and heal survivors of trauma.

Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the people of Congo is a huge task. Having the ability to create, mass produce and distribute materials that minister to these varied needs is central to the Presbyterian Church’s mission in Congo. This is yet another example of your pledged funds to WPC working big and small miracles.
DEMONCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO’S PAX WOMEN’S HEALTH CENTER – OPEN!

“Whatever you have done for the least of these...”

In the war torn second poorest country in the world, the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo), there is now have great reason to celebrate! With some financial support from Westminster and years of planning, a women’s health center has been opened in the heart of southern Congo. The center is ideally located within 10 miles of Kananga’s IMCK (Ksai Christian Medical Institute) hospital. Despite wars and political uncertainties, IMCK and the inpatient Good Shepherd Hospital have continued for 60 years as the preeminent nursing school and hospital in Congo.

Why is a women’s health center so important in Congo? A few statistics from a 2014 health survey of the Congolese womens’ plight is instructive.

- Women’s life expectancy: 52 years
- Maternal mortality: 693 of 100,000 births
- Over 50% of Congolese women suffer physical violence
- 27% of Congolese women suffer sexual violence
- 27% of 15-19 year old girls are pregnant

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Abuse of women is endemic and a weapon of war in Congo yet poverty prevents their access to quality medical care. Local fees stretch to cover only half of operating costs so the need for international support in building basic health systems is essential.

The new Women’s Center will offer pre and post-natal care which has been lacking to non-existent. The center is now equipped with:

- Operating rooms
- Birthing rooms
- Research areas
- Facilities to provide protection and healing to victims of violence
- Facilities housing the government health offices and clinical outreach to the surrounding villages to provide basic healthcare services.

PC(USA) and its missioners have long been involved in the building and growth of IMCK Hospital. What a joy to see this vital extension of medical services in Kasai. For further information about the women’s center or IMCK, visit friendsofIMCK@gmail.com or to financially support this effort with a gift, visit www.IMCK.org.

GOD’S VISION STARTS WITH YOU

Many thanks to these faithful households who made a 2020 financial pledge shortly after the deadline for the previous list in the March Chimes.

Jeff Argus
Tom & Heather Brooks
Rick & Mary-beth Howard

Gordon Lewis
Kara Francis and James Murphy
Gordon & Julia Stone

Jeff Welch
Marilin White
FLYING SOLO ACTIVITIES IN APRIL

We are a group of single adults who meet to support each other in friendship, through social activities and fellowship. All are welcome to join us, and we welcome new participants. If you would like more information about our group, contact Bill Kaye at billkaye3@verizon.net.

Sunday Brunch
We usually meet for brunch on the first and third Sunday of the month at Catherine Rooney’s in Trolley Square at 11:15 a.m. Ask for the group in the back. All are welcome. Upcoming brunch dates to be determined.

Friday Night Dinners (non-brunch weekends)
Generally the second and fourth Friday of the month, we gather for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at various restaurants. Upcoming locations and dates to be determined.

RECENT DEATHS

Those Who Have Joined the Church Triumphant

We remember the families of those who recently died.
We pray that they will be comforted in their loss and be assured that their loved ones have joined God’s heavenly kingdom.

Howard F. Horne, Jr
October 21, 1922 – February 25, 2020

Grace Barrington
October 28, 1935 – February 26, 2020

G. Leigh Cook
February 6, 1944 – March 19, 2020

April 2020
Pastors
The Rev. Dr. Gregory K. Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
The Rev. Jill Getty

WPC Director of Marketing and Communications
Nicole Hughes

Graphic Design by
Trellist Marketing & Technology

Next Chimes Deadline:
Monday, April 13, at 11:00 a.m.
For the May/June 2020 Issue
Submissions can be made at
www.wpc.org/communications

EASTER BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 12 (cancelled)

Nurture your body as well as your spirit and soul on Christianity’s most glorious day of the year ... Easter Sunday! The Deacons are busy planning the annual Easter Breakfast. Join us starting at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served continuously until 11:00 a.m. in Community Hall, so you can enjoy this hearty meal before, during, or after the 9:00 a.m. service and before the 11:00 a.m. service. Remember that the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services are identical on Easter Sunday. Due to the generosity of a Westminster family, the costs of the Easter breakfast have been covered and there will be no charge. Questions? Contact Deacon Amy Bickhart (abickhart1713@gmail.com or 302-547-5631).