Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 18 to help us welcome our new Director of Christian Education, Chesna Hinkley.

Chesna comes to us from Princeton Theological Seminary, where she completed her Master of Divinity and a Certificate in Theology, Women, and Gender just this past May. This summer she will be providing Chaplaincy to a group of High Schoolers in an English immersion program at LLC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Originally from Lansing, Michigan, Chesna completed a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience in December 2015 from the University of Pittsburgh with minors in Chemistry and French. While there, she was a campus ministry Bible study leader, a Christian Studies fellow, and Editor of the Pittsburgh Undergraduate Review.

We are excited for the many talents and interests Chesna brings, including playing the cello and piano. We look forward to her arrival in August.
I BELIEVE…

Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor

My God my bright abyss
into which all my longing will not go
once more I come to the edge of all I know
and believing nothing believe in this:

And there the poem ends.¹

So begins Christian Wiman’s My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer. Since Christian Wiman will be coming to Westminster September 28 and 29 as part of our Distinguished Speaker Series, I’ve decided it’s time to do my homework. I just (literally – just) cracked open this book, which has been praised as “a revelation, a mysticism, a holy text.” No, My Bright Abyss might not make the list of best summer beach reads, but I figured his reflections on faith and life might be poignant to ponder during these long, slightly slower summer days. Plus, September is coming.

And, I must say, I am intrigued. “... once more I come to the edge of all I know / and believing nothing believe in this:” How might Christian Wiman finish this poem? How would I finish this poem? How would you?

Wiman goes on to express his yearning to be able to articulate what it is that he believes.

“To experience grace is one thing; to integrate it into your life is quite another,” he writes. “What I crave now is that integration, some speech that is true to the transcendent nature of grace yet adequate to the hard reality in which daily life operates. I crave, I suppose, the poetry and the prose of knowing.”

In this era, in which faith co-exists and sometimes collides with science and lived experience and competing ‘truths’ floating about in cyberspace, it can be difficult to discern – much less express – what it is we do believe about God, about creation, about ourselves. When it comes to faith, there are caveats and exceptions and nuances and contradictions that don’t always fit within “traditional” statements of belief. Over the past year, Westminster’s young adults have been working our way through the Apostles’ Creed at our monthly Brewing Questions gatherings. Some of you know this ancient Confession of Faith: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth ...” The creed is 110 words and 14 lines long. And – from September to June – we only discussed half of it. There is a
lot to unpack in the Apostle’s Creed. There is a lot that was left out of the Apostle’s Creed. There is a lot about our theology that has changed over the centuries since the Apostle’s Creed was written. And there are a lot of questions that emerge once you start digging. Yes, it can be hard to articulate exactly what it is that we believe.

Like Christian Wiman, I think many of us crave “some speech that is true to the transcendent nature of grace yet adequate to the hard reality in which daily life operates.” Which is why we keep searching for the words – words that ring true, even when confronting cancer; words that ring true, even when a marriage is falling apart; words that ring true, even at the tomb.

I think—I hope—we are all searching ... even us pastor types. Because there is always more to discover about our infinite, mysterious God. That’s one of the reasons we gather week after week – to wrestle with hard questions, to seek new understanding, to grow in faith together.

I look forward to seeing how – or if – Christian Wiman might finish this poem (like I said – I just cracked open this book). And I invite you to read along with me. Maybe we can all find new words to express what we believe.

Blessings,

SAVE THE DATE!
COMING SEPTEMBER 28 AND 29:
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER EVENT

The Art of Faith, the Faith of Art, with author, poet, and teacher Christian Wiman

Saturday, September 28
Open Talk: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Registration required at www.cil-de.org.

Sunday, September 29
Sermon: during 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary
Talk: 10:10 a.m. in Community Hall

Christian Wiman is an American poet and editor, born in 1966 and raised in the small west Texas town of Snyder. He graduated from Washington and Lee University and has taught at Northwestern University, Stanford University, Lynchburg College in Virginia, and the Prague School of Economics. In 2003, he became editor of the oldest American magazine of verse, Poetry, a role he stepped down from in June 2013. Wiman now teaches Literature and Religion at Yale University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

Wiman’s presentation will be from his newest book, He Held Radical Light: The Art of Faith, the Faith of Art, which is a love letter to poetry, filled with moving, surprising, and sometimes funny encounters with the poets Wiman has known. He Held Radical Light is as urgent and intense as it is lively and entertaining – a sharp sequel to Wiman’s earlier memoir, My Bright Abyss.
MONTH OF MUSICAL MASTERWORKS
AT WESTMINSTER
AUGUST 2019

Another August, another month of great instrumental music here at Westminster. Each of the four Sundays in August, our 10 o’clock worship service is enhanced with a major instrumental work, with the movements interspersed throughout the service as Prelude, Offertory and Postlude. This year the line-up includes two concertos and two sonatas, representing a broad range of timbres and styles. Here’s what’s in store for the month:

August 4
Alessandro Marcello: Oboe Concerto in C minor
Merideth Hite Estevez, oboe

August 11
Carl Reinecke: Harp Concerto, Op. 182
Anne Sullivan, harp

August 18
Karl Pilss: Sonata for Trumpet and Piano
Robert Skoniczyn, trumpet

August 25
Felix Mendelssohn: Organ Sonata no. 1 in F minor
Paul Fleckenstein, organ

Of course, for the two concertos (the first two Sundays), Paul will play the orchestral accompaniments on the organ and will accompany the trumpet sonata at the piano. For the organ sonata, he’s on his own!
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
HELP PROVIDE A CHILD IN NEED WITH A FRESH START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR!

For many of us, childhood memories of a new school year include a special outfit for the first day of school, a new lunchbox or book bag, and brand-new school supplies...is there anything better than a brand-new box of perfectly sharpened crayons?! You can make a difference in the life of a child, whose family may not be able to afford these gifts, by making that fresh start possible.

Since 2007, Westminster has worked with elementary schools in Wilmington to provide students in need with new backpacks filled with school supplies. In the first year of the project, we filled and donated 200 backpacks. We have gradually increased the number of backpacks and participating schools over the years, working our way up to 600 backpacks and four schools (EastSide Charter, Highlands Elementary, Shortlidge Academy and UrbanPromise, as well as students identified through Family Promise) last year. This year we again seek to provide 600 backpacks, and we need your support!

Please consider purchasing a set of supplies to fill one (or more!) backpack(s) and bringing the supplies to church. There will be a trunk near the reception desk for donations. You can also donate $10 to cover the cost of the backpack. Or, if you’d prefer, you can write a check to cover the cost of the supplies ($10), the backpack ($10), or both. Please make your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and write “Backpacks” in the memo line.
This project will launch with our Vacation Bible School program on Monday, July 22. Donations will be collected until Sunday, August 18; on that day, Westminster children are invited to bring their backpacks to church. At both worship services, our pastors will bless their backpacks as well as the 600 donated backpacks, helping launch the school year with God’s abundant blessings and the love and support of our church family. The backpacks will be delivered to the recipient schools during the week of August 19 and staff members at those schools will then distribute the backpacks to their students.

Please contact Jennifer Steiner (302-425-5008), Rachel Psaros (302-427-0258) or Sue Linderman (302-239-7650) if you have any questions.

Thanks so much for your continued support of the Backpacks Project!

**BACKPACK CONTENTS**

Marble composition books (3) • #2 pencils (1 dozen)
Box of 24 Crayola crayons • English/metric ruler (6 or 12 inch) • Small glue sticks (2)
Pair of scissors with blunt tips • Pink erasers (2)
On Maundy Thursday, many people gathered in the sanctuary to remember the last days of Jesus' life and his death upon the cross. The voices of the Westminster ByHeart storytellers wove together the familiar story of betrayal, death, faith, compassion and love. Seasoned tellers led the way, with new participants this year, taking the roles of followers and accusers of Jesus – as well as Jesus himself – drawing listeners into the time and space where Jesus lived, loved, taught and died.

While the Maundy Thursday story does not change, we do. We are always changing and transitioning, losing and discovering. Every year this ancient story is new because we are new.

Both telling and listening to Bible stories presented by heart offer opportunities to talk about what we believe. Storytelling gives us words in our mouths that carry meaning and intense emotion from deep in our hearts. Telling and listening to stories presented this way, from tellers’ souls, strengthens our faith in Jesus and in God.

For the past 15 years, the Westminster ByHeart storytelling ministry has grown and flourished under the tender care, wise guidance, and steady support of the Reverend Dr. Greg Jones. His yearly participation in the Maundy Thursday service as pastor, plus taking on the part of Jesus, renews our understanding and appreciation of the Last Supper. The Westminster Choir’s participation in the service, led by Organist/Director of Music Paul Fleckenstein, was integral, adding stirring and haunting hymns. All left the service, with heavy hearts, impatiently praying for Easter to dawn.

We welcome and encourage new tellers. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please talk with any of the lay tellers, or contact Mary-beth Howard (mbh.cc73@gmail.com) or Shelley Gnade (shelley.gnade@gmail.com).
ONE DAY HONEY, ONE DAY ONIONS: LIFE IN PALESTINE

You are invited to hear Dr. Michael Connor, a retired biostatistician, talk about the struggles of daily living for Palestinians living in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. He will speak on Wednesday, July 10, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church located at 1301 N. Broom Street, Wilmington, DE 19806 (two blocks from Westminster).

Dr. Connor’s presentation will describe what it’s like living under occupation and some of the challenges facing Palestinian youth. He will also share testimonies of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim “living stones” who experience hope, despite decades of conflict.

Please RSVP to delawarephr@gmail.com.

This event is sponsored by Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights and cosponsored by Delaware Churches for Middle East Peace, Delaware Episcopalians for Middle East Peace, and Pacem in Terris.

BEAT THE HEAT! Enjoy ice cream, treats, face painting, and games at this annual event in Community Hall.
STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING TO BE OFFERED THIS WINTER

Stephen Ministry training equips lay men and women to provide confidential, Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Since 1984, many Westminster members have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

Starting in January 2020, a new Stephen Ministry class will be offered at Westminster. It will consist of 50 hours of interesting and useful training in Christian caring skills. The class will be led by trained Stephen Leaders and will include a variety of topics such as active listening, Christian assertiveness, maintaining boundaries, and dealing with grief. The training focuses on God as the one who cures while the Stephen Minister cares.

After completion of the course, Stephen Ministers commit to at least two years of service, supervision, and continuing education. Many who become Stephen Ministers find this ministry so meaningful that they choose to serve beyond the two years. While being a Stephen Minister requires a commitment of time and effort, it also brings much reward. In addition, the skills you learn can be used in your everyday relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

We invite you to think and pray about this opportunity. If you are interested, please contact Jill Getty (jgetty@wpc.org), Sue Weissinger (dulcy@aol.com), Jerry Spilecki (jspilecki@verizon.net), or Ellie Furry (ejfurry@aol.com).
RECENT BEQUEST

Westminster received a $5,000 bequest from the Estate of Frederick J. Carspecken.

The Trustees have accepted and invested this gift in the Unrestricted Endowment Fund. We give thanks for our long time member Fred, and the gifts he bestowed on Westminster.

STAFF ANNIVERSARY

Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications
(10 years in July)

Thank you, Nicole, for your years of faithful service, and congratulations on your anniversary at Westminster!

We are so blessed to have you!

Frederick J. Carspecken
September 29, 1946 – October 14, 2018
PROPERTY NEWS – CHURCH LANDSCAPE

May 23, 2019

Have you taken a moment to walk along the front lawn of the church? This spring, changes in the landscape carried out last year bloomed into view. A new row of Okame cherry trees along Pennsylvania Avenue began to flower as Easter approached. A coincidence? Not really. One of the reasons the trees were chosen was the time of their bloom. But with an ever-shifting date for Easter, we’ll have to check next year to see how close they come to flowering on April 12.

Over the last three weeks, an array of plants started to spread across the mulched beds between the trees. Lighter green tiarella are interspersed with catmint crowned with spikes of frilly purple blossoms evident in a photo taken in late May. Sedum adds another texture to the ground cover, and larger shrubs complete the scene: Ruby Spice Sweet Pepperbush and Annabelle Hydrangea. Surrounding the raised beds of the community garden at the far end of the lawn is a gently curving row of cherry laurel, which over time will form a hedge around the garden.
The enhancements across the front lawn resulted from the collaboration of many individuals throughout the church as well as the skills of landscape architect Geoff Anderson. Special thanks go to Charles Babcock, Gary Bryde, Wendy Hatch, Bob Ridout, and Paul Crothamel. The next time you are at church, spend a few moments to enjoy our front lawn. And while you’re there, walk back into the Memorial Garden, a serene place of peace and tranquility. The beauty around you will lift up your soul.

Women’s Holistic Spiritual Retreat

Friday, October 4, 4:00 p.m. through Sunday, October 6, 12:00 noon
day Attendees: Saturday, October 5, 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Temenos Retreat Center, West Chester, PA
www.temenoscommunity.org

Retreat registration will be open from August 1 until September 15 (deadline). Registration forms will be available via Committee Member and Registrar Patti Ridout (pgridout@gmail.com), in the Weekly Word e-newsletter, and on the literature table in the main hallway at church. Space is limited to 20 overnight guests and 10 Saturday attendees and will be on a “first come” basis.

Temenos, a Greek word for “sacred space,” is located just outside of West Chester, PA, less than an hour away. Questions? Contact Judy Stoddard (JLStod@aol.com) or committee members Carol Hogue (carol.hogue@verizon.net) and Barbara Stratton (bhs@knepperstrattonlaw.us).

Please join us for a weekend of spiritual growth, “in and out of the box” self-discovery opportunities, reflection, camaraderie, and fun.
INTERFAITH RAMADAN CELEBRATION ATTENDED BY CLERGY AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES

On May 23, Dr. Jones and Camilla celebrated Ramadan with an interfaith iftar (the meal where Muslims break their daily Ramadan fast). The event included Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Christian friends at the Islamic Society of Delaware.

Dr. Jones spoke about the gracious hospitality of the local Muslim community, how we have nurtured positive interfaith relationships in Delaware, and the importance of people of faith standing together, arms linked in love and support in times of celebration and tragedy.

Dr. Jones’ comments included: “It is good when brothers and sisters dwell together in peace and when we emphasize what is best in our religious traditions: treating one another with kindness and compassion, patience and forgiveness, dignity and respect. It is also right and true and good when we resist bigotry, xenophobia, and extremist ideologies designed to favor one tribe over others...May we do everything in our power to spread peace on earth.”

Other speakers included Senator Chris Coons, Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester, Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long, and New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer.
THE SPIRIT OF COMPASSION

On Sunday afternoon, May 18, Dr. Jones participated in an ecumenical panel at the Jesus House, a spiritual retreat center in Wilmington. The discussion centered on how our spiritual roots nourish our ability to be compassionate in difficult times and stressful situations.

The other participants were Dr. Chris Hyde, psychologist, and The Reverend Keith Miller, pastor of the Life Path Church.

Dr. Christopher Hyde, The Rev. Keith Miller, and Dr. Greg Jones

180° YOUTH MINISTRY

The 2018-2019 program year for 180° Youth Ministry was planned, supported and enriched by the youth ministry leadership team of (pictured left to right) Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters, Tommy Neilson, Josh Cox, and Chris Hickey.

Merideth Hite Estevez was their leader until December, but this team carried on with energy and commitment to the Westminster youth who continued to be active in the Sunday evening 180° program. Molly, Emily, Josh and Chris all grew up with Westminster as their family’s church home. Tommy came to us while serving as an Americorps leader in a Wilmington school. Tommy is continuing to plan and organize events for youth throughout the summer. Westminster is grateful for the leadership of these amazing young people.
Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Class of 2019!

High School Graduates

Tristan Erik Bradley
Cindy & Erik Bradley (Parents)
Unionville High School
Tristan will attend Bowdoin College.

Riley Elizabeth DeBaecke
Kathryn & Michael DeBaecke (Parents), Craig Wemmers (Grandparent)
Archmere Academy
Riley will attend Bucknell University.

Jessica (Jessie) Jordan Falasco
Colleen & Marty Falasco (Parents)
Ursuline Academy
Jessie will attend Drexel University to study Design and Merchandising.

Nathaniel (Nate) Glenn Gerstenschlager
Jen Barrington & Mark Gerstenschlager (Parents), Grace & Jack Barrington (Grandparents)
Unionville High School
Nate will take a gap year of service and then attend Washington College.

Liam Graham Harron
Sue & Ed Harron (Parents)
Wilmington Friends School
Liam will attend Elon University.

Charlotte Foster Holden
Meg & David Holden (Parents)
Charter School of Wilmington
Charlotte will attend University of Delaware, World Scholars program.

Alexandra Carrie Kidd
Dani & Robert Kidd (Parents), Eadie & the late Bob Churchill (Grandparents)
Conrad School of Math and Science
Alexandra will attend Hofstra University Class of 2023 (Honors College).

Sophia Jin Malatesta
Susan Jin Davis & the late Joseph J. Malatesta Jr. (Parents)
Westtown School, West Chester, PA
Sophia will attend Bryn Mawr College.

Rabea Kathryn Pfaff
Emily & Keith Pfaff (Parents)
Avon Grove High School
Rabea will attend University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study Neuroscience and has been recruited to swim for UNC.
High School Graduates (continued)

Davis Tyler Piercy
Paula & Todd Piercy (Parents)
Kennett High School
Davis will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and major in Computer Engineering.

Theo Stone
Julia & Gordon Stone (Parents)
Tower Hill School
Theo will attend Tulane University.

Cameron Robert Sweet
Mark & Christy Checkel Sweet (Parents), Jeanne & the late Bob Checkel (Grandparents), Craig Checkel (Uncle)
St. Stephens and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA
Cameron will attend University of Virginia.

John Christian Weber
Teri & Bruce Weber (Parents)
Salesianum
John will attend University of Delaware.

College/University Graduates

Melinda Amber Bilous
Brenda & Peter Bilous (Parents)
East Carolina University
Bachelor of Science in Recreational Therapy

Madison Russo-Bradley
Cindy & Erik Bradley (Parents)
James Madison University School of Media Arts and Design
Madison will pursue a career in Marketing.

Amanda Claire Evans
Wendi & Stephen Evans (Parents), Sandi & George Evans (Grandparents)
Towson University
Bachelor of Science in Biology
Amanda will attend University of Delaware for a Masters degree in Biology.

Matthew George Evans
Barbara & John Evans (Parents), Sandi & George Evans (Grandparents)
University of Delaware
Bachelor of Arts in Finance

Ben Fischer
Jessica & Matt Fischer (Parents)
Wake Forest University
Bachelor of Science in Biology and Anthropology with a minor in Chemistry

Corinna Freeth
Allison Freeth & David Freeth (Parents), Tenney Wheatley & the late Barbara Wheatley (Grandparents)
University of Delaware
Bachelor of Arts in Biology and History

Continued on page 18
College/University Graduates (continued)

Denys A. Hubbard  
Leslie & Tom Hubbard (Parents)  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology

Hannah Day Yin Huzar  
Becky & Walt Huzar (Parents)  
University of Delaware  
Bachelor of Science in Economics and Finance with minors in International Business and Political Science

Amanda Joy Kielhorn  
Lynne & Fred Kielhorn (Parents)  
University of Delaware  
Bachelor of Science in Economics

Laura Peck  
Mary & Kevin Peck (Parents)  
University of Pittsburgh  
Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies with a certificate in Global Studies

Lauren Claire Stabler  
Melissa & Craig Stabler (Parents), Jane & Dave Stabler (Grandparents)  
Clemson University  
Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Spanish  
Lauren will work in the Peace Corp or teach in Spain.

Post Graduates

Christopher Thomas Carper  
Martha & Tom Carper (Parents)  
Stanford University  
Masters of Business Administration  
Christopher will begin work with Apple in August.

Chesna Elizabeth Hinkley  
WPC Director of Christian Education (beginning August 2019)  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Master of Divinity

Karen Asenavage Loptes  
Eastern University  
Doctorate in Organizational Leadership

Alexander (Alex) Haines Sprague  
Sue Sprague & the late Michael Sprague (Parents), Margit & Spencer Stradley (Grandparents)  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Master of Divinity

Jarrell E. Young  
Alethia M. Brown Young & John Young (Parents)  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Masters and Doctorate in Physical Therapy
WESTMINSTER YOUTH ATTENDS TRIENNium IN INDIANA

Kristian Tolbert will join 19 youth and five adult advisors from six churches in the New Castle Presbytery when they attend the 2019 Youth Triennium at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana from July 16 – 20 (www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org).

Kristian, a Unionville High School sophomore, engages in many school activities including volleyball, singing in the chorale, and playing violin in the orchestra. He has also been a Teen Science Café Leader at the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

Kristian, a 2019 Westminster Confirmand, has been an active part of our church for many years along with his mom, Kali, sister, Keira, and grandmother, Sylvia Kniel. He has participated in many Vacation Bible School weeks, Sunday School classes, and music opportunities, and continues to be an energetic, thoughtful, and positive presence in worship, the 180° youth group, and mission related service projects.

Triennium, with a few thousand Presbyterian youth from all over this country, will certainly be an experience! We look forward to hearing about it when Kristian returns.
**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

**Heather Brooks** grew up in the Newark area and attended the University of Delaware. She has been teaching for almost 20 years and currently works as the Lower School Librarian and a reading teacher at The Tatnall School. She is also pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership and hopes to finish her degree in the next year. **Tom Brooks** grew up in Ohio and moved to Delaware in 1983. He also graduated from the University of Delaware and has worked as a Design Engineer/Manager with DelDOT for 29 years. Heather and Tom have been married for 29 years and have a daughter, Caitlyn, who is a sophomore at Drexel University studying Animation. In their free time, Heather likes reading, walking, cooking, and playing games and Tom enjoys walking, Ohio State Football, traveling, and fixing their house and cars. Heather and Tom also have a Cairn terrier puppy named Seamus.

**Erin Downing** (formerly Erin Edwards) was raised in Wilmington and baptized and confirmed at Westminster. After high school she moved to Newark to attend the University of Delaware and then to New York City to pursue a career in the fashion industry. She lived in NYC for 10 years before returning to Wilmington. Erin began her career in corporate fashion buying in NYC, working for companies like Liz Claiborne and Ann Taylor. She now works as the General Merchandise Manager for Motherhood Maternity in Moorestown, NJ. Erin and her husband, Scott, returned to Wilmington about five years ago. They have two young children, Hudson and Crosby. Erin and Scott love to travel and list South Africa and French Polynesia among their favorite travel destinations.

**Elaine Lunardi** is looking forward to being an official member of the Westminster congregation after being a very frequent visitor for the past four years. After moving to Glen Mills, PA in 2014, her daughter’s family (Teresa, Aaron, Griffin and Cooper Wemhoff) invited Elaine to visit WPC. Since then she has enjoyed attending services and getting to know many of the WPC preschoolers and families through Godly Care. When not working as a pediatric physical therapist, Elaine keeps busy with her favorite hobby – enjoying time with her four adult children and their families, including 13 grandchildren.
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

JULY 22–26
8:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Preschool to Rising 6th Graders

Discover the wonders of God's universe! Become voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take you.

VBS 2019 REGISTRATION FORM – Return by Friday, July 5

Child’s Name ____________________________________________________________

Birthday ___________________________ Grade Entering in September 2019 ___________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Parent(s) Name _________________________________________________________

Home Phone ____________________________ Cell/Work Phone ____________________________

Emergency Contact and Phone ____________________________________________

Allergies/Special Needs __________________________________________________

Parent Email (required) _________________________________________________

Make registration check ($25 per child/$40 max. per family) payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Write “VBS” in Memo line. Send check and BOTH forms to: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1502 West 13th Street, Wilmington, DE 19806

Or email registrar Lisa Stoddard at lisstoddard@gmail.com

Volunteer leaders/teen helpers:
Contact Robin Rosser (rlrosser@outlook.com) or
Susan Williamson (susanwilliamson@comcast.net)
RELEASE FORM
MUST ACCOMPANY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Westminster children/youth program volunteers and employees are subject to background checks. Westminster also performs a child protection registry check through the Delaware Justice Information System.

Westminster does not require fingerprinting of our volunteers or employees.

Program: ________________________________________________________________

Child(ren): _______________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

By signing this release, you acknowledge that you are informed of and accept Westminster’s policy regarding volunteers/staff for children’s programs:

_____________________________________________________________________________

Parent (Guardian’s) name - Please print

_____________________________________________________     ______________________
Signature           Date
FLYING SOLO

We are a group of singles who meet to support each other in friendship, through social activities and fellowship. All are welcome to join us, and we are always looking for new participants. Curious about Flying Solo? Contact Bill Kaye at billkaye3@verizon.net.

Sunday Brunch
We meet for brunch on the first and third Sunday of the month at Catherine Rooney’s in Trolley Square at 11:15 a.m. (after Westminster’s 10:TEN education hour). Upcoming brunch dates are July 7, July 21, August 4 and August 18.

July 4th Fireworks
We’ll have dinner first at 7:00 p.m. at the Iron Hill Brewery on the Riverfront, followed by watching fireworks. If possible, we will try to sit on the upper deck and watch the fireworks from there, or after dinner we’ll move outside to watch. RSVP by July 1 to Cathy Lang at cathylang@wpc.org.

Blue Rocks Game at Frawley Stadium – Friday, July 12
RSVP to Bill Kaye (billkaye3@verizon.net) by July 2. We have a tailgate before and after the game; bring a lawn chair and food to share.

Friday Night Dinners (non brunch weekends)
Tentative dinner dates are July 12, July 26, August 9, and August 23.

Delaware Shakespeare Presents “The Merry Wives of Windsor” – Friday, July 26
This event is held at Rockwood Park at 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Shakespeare’s ridiculously bold comedy of wooing and trickery. Merry Wives features the Bard’s classic larger-than-life character, Falstaff, and Mistress Ford and Mistress Page, the two “merry wives” who get the better of him! Directed by Krista Apple. Contact cathylang@wpc.org for more information.

We also like to do outdoor activities such as canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and outdoor theater/concerts. However, these activities are weather dependent, so are difficult to plan more than a week in advance. If you are interested in organizing such an event, please contact Bill Kaye (billkaye3@verizon.net) or Cathy Lang (cathylang@wpc.org). Group emails can be sent to assist in organizing. Thanks!
WESTMINSTER JOINS TWO COMMUNITY COALITIONS

At its June meeting, Westminster Session approved the recommendation of the Peace and Justice Work Group/Joint Mission Committee that Westminster Presbyterian Church become an official member of two local community coalitions dedicated to furthering racial justice and reconciliation.

Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow

In 2012, members of the Mother African Union Church, First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, and the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council (IMAC) formed a partnership to study mass incarceration and institutional racism and their effects on communities of color and the poor. The Reverends Dr. Lawrence Livingston and Paula Maiorano organized and facilitated the first New Jim Crow Study Group, whose purpose was to read and discuss Michelle Alexander’s book, *The New Jim Crow: Colorblindness in the Age of Mass Incarceration*. Eventually, 20 congregations and organizations participated in study groups, enlightening hundreds of Delawareans about mass incarceration. In 2013, members of the study groups gathered together to form the Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow.

The New Jim Crow is a result of legalized racist policy that promotes the mass imprisonment of people of color and the poor, resulting in disparate incarceration rates. Those released from prison are doubly punished — returning to a society that excludes them from fully transitioning back in. This includes barring re-entering citizens from voting, excluding them from welfare programs and economic assistance, difficulty in obtaining housing and discriminatory practices in hiring, to name a few.
The Coalition believes that justice requires a hard look at these policies and practices, and a strong resolution to overcome them through resistance, policy advocacy, and racial healing. Within the Coalition, action-oriented committees seek to increase awareness of the problem and solutions through public forums, fostering prevention programs for at-risk youth, promoting racial healing, and advocating for changes in policy and practices that feed Delaware’s mass incarceration system.

Coalition members include YWCA Delaware, League of Women Voters, Network Delaware, NAACP of Delaware and a host of local churches.

www.endnewjimcrowde.org

Facebook – The Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow

**Delaware Coalition for Smart Justice**

The Delaware Coalition for Smart Justice is a state-wide group of organizations and individuals who advocate for a criminal justice system that fosters public safety by reducing mass incarceration, recidivism and racial disparities. We use public education, community organizing and grass roots advocacy to challenge the system and create change that will have a significant impact on individuals, families and communities.

Our criminal justice system falls particularly harshly on people of color and the poor. African Americans make up only 23% of Delaware’s population, but 60% of its prison population. Cash bail and excessive fines and fees are destroying the lives of people who cannot afford to pay them. In 2017, Delaware issued over 40,000 warrants for the arrest of Delawareans who owed on average less than 500 dollars related to misdemeanor offenses. When these warrants are issued, the individual’s driver’s license is automatically suspended, dramatically escalating the difficulties these individuals face.

*Continued on page 26*
It is time to re-examine the laws and policies that brought us here. Mass incarceration has been the result of a series of choices that we, as a society, have made over the last 30 years, and it’s time to make different choices. Instead of focusing solely on punishment and incarceration, our criminal justice system should be keeping communities safe, treating people fairly and using our fiscal resources wisely.

Coalition members include: ACLU of Delaware, Campaign for Smart Justice Delaware, Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, Community Legal Aid Society, Delaware Center for Justice, Delaware Civil Rights Coalition, Delaware United, League of Women Voters Delaware, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, NAACP Delaware State Conference, Network Delaware, Pacem in Terris, Wilmington Hope Commission, Unitarian Universalist Delaware Advocacy Network, and Westminster Presbytery Church.

www.votesmartjusticede.org

Facebook – Campaign for Smart Justice Delaware

For additional information, please refer to the March 2019 issue of The Chimes, pages 16-17.

If you have questions or comments about these organizations or would like to become more directly involved, please contact Mike Gnade (302-562-4464 or mgnade@hotmail.com), Lynne Kielhorn (302-593-5527 or lynne@kielhorn.us) or Sue Linderman (302-239-7650 or srlinder@dca.net), facilitators of Westminster’s Peace and Justice Work Group.
The United States incarcerates its citizens at a higher rate than any other country in the world. *Delaware incarcerates its citizens at a rate even higher than the national average, making it both a national and global leader in incarceration (16th in the entire world, to be precise).* Moreover, Delaware’s system is plagued with racial disparities, which has resulted in a prison population that is 60% African-American even though our citizenry is only 23% African-American.

The two main goals of the Coalition are (1) to reduce Delaware’s prison population by half; and (2) to reduce racial disparities in Delaware’s system of policing, charging, prosecuting, sentencing, and rehabilitating our citizens.

To further these goals, the Coalition set an expansive list of legislative priorities for this First Session of the 150th General Assembly session, including:

- Modifying the use of fines/fees by requiring judges to do an ability to pay analysis, eliminating driver’s license revocation and eliminating the use of warrants for failure to pay.

- Revising drug statutes to remove location-based enhancements for all drug crimes, change the tiering and remove drug offenses from the violent felony list.

*Continued on page 28*
• Allowing concurrent sentencing for all criminal laws instead of requiring sentences for certain cases with more than one charge to run consecutively.

• Amending the sentencing modification statute to allow for release of individuals who are not a significant public safety threat and/or may be eligible for compassionate release, such as elderly and ill inmates.

• Expanding second chances through an expungement bill that will reform the availability of expungement for adults.

• Expanding and improving criminal justice data transparency on issues such as the imposition of fees, fines and court costs, as well as charging, prosecution, sentencing, incarceration, and release.

Now that the First Session is nearly over and the General Assembly will be heading into its break beginning July 1, the following is an update on the specific legislation that either was introduced or supported by the Coalition so far this Session (current information as of June 8, 2019):

• **Senate Substitute (SS) 1 for Senate Bill (SB) 37** – Provides for expungement of convictions for certain felonies after a waiting period following release from incarceration. Passed the Senate and voted favorably out of the House Judiciary Committee; went to the House Appropriations Committee on May 16 to consider fiscal note, then it will move for a vote to full House.

• **SB 39** – Prohibits a court from suspending a driver’s license for nonpayment of a fine, fee, cost, assessment, or restitution. It also would prohibit a court from imposing an additional fee on a defendant for payments that are made at designated periodic intervals or late, or when probation is ordered to supervise a defendant’s payment. Introduced on May 31. Awaiting a voted by Senate Judiciary Committee.

• **SB 43** – Modifies the impact of criminal history on an applicant’s eligibility for licensure by the Board of Electrical Examiners. Signed into law by the Governor on April 9, 2019.

• **SB 47 with SA 1** – Eliminates certain geographic-based sentencing enhancements for drug-related offenses that disproportionately impact those living in urban areas. Passed the Senate and was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee on June 5. Will move to a vote before the full House.

• **House Bill (HB) 5** – Reforms concurrent and consecutive sentencing guidelines to reduce “charge stacking” (multiple charges/convictions for same act). Voted favorably out of the House Judiciary Committee and is awaiting a vote by the full House.
• **HB 7** – Modifies the impact of criminal history on an applicant’s eligibility for a license from the Board of Massage and Body Work, thereby removing certain barriers to employment. Introduced on May 15 and still awaiting consideration by the House Sunset Committee.

• **HB 8 with House Amendment (HA) 1**
  – HB 8 provides tax credits to employers who hire formerly incarcerated persons. Voted favorably out of the House Revenue and Finance Committee. On 5/30, HA 1 to HB 8 was added to clarify that a “qualified ex-offender” under the bill is a Delaware resident released from a Delaware correctional facility within one year of the individual’s date of hire. Ready for a vote by the full House.

• **HB 102 with HA 1** – Provides that a person who proves s/he was a victim of human trafficking may seek a pardon or expungement of a conviction for a non-violent felony. Passed the House and Senate. Ready for the Governor for action.

• **HB 110** – Legalizes cannabis for adults 21 years and older. Voted out of the House Revenue and Finance Committee on June 6 and will now go to the House Appropriations Committee to consider the fiscal note before moving to the full House for a vote.

Finally, one bill that has been introduced this Session, **HB 165**, is one that the Coalition will oppose. HB 165 would reinstate the death penalty in Delaware, which was declared unconstitutional by the Delaware Supreme Court in August 2016. While the new bill requires juries to make unanimous recommendations and restricts judges from overriding jury recommendations, it does nothing to reduce the other flaws in the application of Delaware’s death penalty. The new bill does nothing to address the racial bias, the harm to victims’ family members, the waste of taxpayer dollars, and the risk of executing an innocent person.

You can also stay informed by visiting [http://legis.delaware.gov](http://legis.delaware.gov) where you can monitor the status of these bills. Also, you can make a difference by contacting your local legislators and let them know your opinion via email or a phone call. Or you can attend legislative hearings on the bills and voice your opinion in person. Every voice matters! If you might like to canvass on these issues or attend legislative lobby days or attend other organized rallies, please go to [http://aclu-de.org/en/coalition-for-smart-justice](http://aclu-de.org/en/coalition-for-smart-justice) and sign up to receive the Coalition’s email updates.
Our Peace and Justice Work Group was excited to bring criminal justice reform advocate Adam Foss to Wilmington this Spring. It was a packed two-day schedule that we believe was successful in making connections and inspiring people in our community to take action. This public event was the largest gathering of folks on this topic that Delaware has had!

The day before Adam Foss spoke at Westminster, we arranged for him to meet with Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings and her staff. They were so impressed with what he had to offer that they have been in regular contact with him ever since.

More than 200 people came to hear Adam share stories about his journey from prosecutor to founder of a non-profit organization (Prosecutor Impact) that advocates for and provides technical assistance to criminal justice reform efforts across the country.

After Greg Jones welcomed the audience, including special guests Governor Carney and New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer, two Delaware reform advocates provided some local context. Erica Marshall, ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice Manager, highlighted the issues around mass incarceration. She explained that the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world and Delaware’s rate is well above the U.S. average. Xavier Broomer, member of the new Game Changers organization, brought the issue home by talking about his personal experience in the criminal justice system. Then Adam Foss wowed us all with heartfelt stories and a vision of how things can be made better, especially by leveraging the role of the prosecutor in new ways. If you didn’t attend the event or want to hear it a second time, check out the video at https://youtu.be/sj72kZi13yl.
Following the speaker event, we hosted a luncheon in Classroom 6 for key stakeholders connected to criminal justice reform in Delaware. This included folks from the Delaware Department of Justice, Smart Justice Coalition, the Delaware General Assembly Criminal Justice Improvement Committee – Code Improvement Project, U.S. Attorney’s Office – Delaware District, Delaware Office of Defense Services, Game Changers and the Office of the Governor. This group wants to continue the conversation and has committed to follow-up meetings.

We look forward to hosting another great speaker in Fall 2019 to continue our mission to educate and inspire our community to join us in advocating for peace and justice.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT SATURDAY BREAKFAST

Saturday Breakfast is Westminster’s almost 30-year-old mission outreach to those in need. We provide a hot pancake breakfast for up to 200 people each Saturday. It takes a lot of volunteers to fix breakfast for that many people. We welcome families, groups, and individuals to help on Saturday morning.

Our pancake mix and syrup come from the Food Bank. We are in need of someone to coordinate our deliveries from the Food Bank, making sure they arrive when the Westminster Phix-It Corp can help put the boxes of mix and syrup away. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sue Weissinger at (302) 652-5910.
KICK-OFF ADULT EDUCATION IN SEPTEMBER WITH ADAMS AMINI CASSINGA

Poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Why should you care?

Sunday, September 15, 10:10 a.m.
Presenter: Adams Amini Cassinga, CEO and Founder of ConservCongo

Adams Cassinga is an environmentalist, social entrepreneur, civic leader, writer, and public speaker from Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa. After running a successful mining consultancy business for seven years, he decided to dedicate his career to protecting the Congolese ecosystem.

He is currently the founder and CEO for ConservCongo, a nature conservation-aligned NGO which fights poaching and promotes scientific tourism and environmental conservation through education. They fight illegal wildlife trafficking by infiltrating gangs and networks of traffickers; organize sting operations to make arrests; and then make sure that justice takes place and there is no corruption in the cases. Cassinga’s efforts include empowering park rangers through specialized training and logistical support and initiating community subsistence farming projects to curb poaching and ensure food security.
Cassinga is a former investigative reporter with the South African media. He was shot three times while investigating a story in 2006 and was a recipient of the Caxton’s “No guts, no story” award for showing courage in the face of danger.

He is an alumnus of Young African Leaders Initiative and a finalist for the Community Solutions program in 2017. That same year, he was selected for a Nelson Mandela Fellowship, funded by the U.S. State Department, AID. This very prestigious program brings high potential African leaders to the U.S. for further development, in his case, at the University of Delaware, where his focus was on civic leadership. After the fellowship, Cassinga was the sole candidate retained for a four week internship at the Delaware Nature Society, where he was exposed, first hand, to American environmental work, particularly in the Delaware area.

Adams Cassinga has a diploma in journalism from Rhodes University and in environmental management from the National Occupational Institute of Southern Africa (NOSA), and has further study in environmental and project management. He is fluent in French, English, Portuguese, and 12 African languages including Swahili and Zulu.

Join us in Classroom 6 during the 10:TEN hour and learn how Mr. Cassinga and ConservCongo are helping to eradicate poaching and wildlife trafficking through direct intervention tactics and by addressing its root causes: hunger and poverty. Stay tuned for more details in upcoming announcements.

RECYCLE CELL PHONES FOR CONGO GORILLAS

What if an endangered Mountain Gorilla from the Democratic Republic of Congo texted you one day and asked for your help? Would you respond? The Earth Care Task Force and Church in the World Committee have teamed up to help the gorillas by introducing a cell phone recycling campaign right here at WPC!

Continued on page 34
So, what’s the connection between gorillas and cell phones?

The Congo is home to several endangered gorillas living in the tropical rain forests there. Habitat loss is the largest threat to the gorillas’ survival and currently their home is being turned into mines for precious minerals like copper and gold, and ores like columbite-tantalite (aka coltan). Coltan, gold, copper, tin and tungsten are all found inside cell phones and help make them work efficiently. Disputes over control of the Congo mines have led to corruption and a major humanitarian crisis. People working in the mines have to eat, so nearby wildlife, including the endangered gorillas, are killed for food.

By recycling your old cell phone, the minerals can be recycled and reused, creating less demand for mining coltan in Africa. During July and August, WPC will be collecting cell phones for recycling and, through a collaboration with EcoCell, we will receive a small refund for the quantity we collect. We plan to donate our refund to ConservCongo, a current WPC partner that works to protect the endangered gorillas and their forest home in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(Before you donate, please clear your cell phone of all personal data by following these instructions: www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-wipe-your-phone-or-tablet-before-selling).
SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Through August 25

• Service with communion in Rodney Chapel at 8:15 a.m.

• Service in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.
  Join us for Summer Tea following the 10:00 a.m. service.

September 1 and 8

• One service in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

For a full schedule of all events and programs for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings and throughout the week, please check our up-to-date calendar at: calendar.wpc.org

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.

William A. Marsh
April 27, 1957 – April 21, 2019

Robert “Bob” L. Checkel
February 12, 1924 – May 29, 2019

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSINGS

The church office is closed on the following days in July and August:

• Thursday, July 4

• Fridays in July
  (except July 26 for Vacation Bible School)

• Fridays in August
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, August 5, at 11:00 a.m.
For the September 2019 Issue
Submissions can be made at
www.wpc.org/communications

Save the date for our 3rd annual 13th Street Food Truck Festival scheduled for Sunday, September 8, at 11:00 a.m.
This is a rain or shine event. Join us for food and fun!