Celebrating Paul Fleckenstein’s Career at Westminster

Organist/Director of Music
January 1993 – December 2019

Sunday, November 17, 4:00 p.m.
Come to Westminster’s sanctuary and be musically transported during this concert featuring Paul on the organ. This will be his final concert as organ soloist at Westminster, celebrating his musicianship and exuberance for the organ. There will be a reception in Rodney Chapel immediately following the concert so everyone has the opportunity to greet Paul and voice appreciation for his long tenure at Westminster. We are deeply grateful for his commitment to musical ministry for these last 27 years!

Paul will continue to serve as our Organist/Director of Music through December, providing leadership at the organ bench and directing the choir on Sundays and at the annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29
Experience Paul’s last morning of worship with Westminster. We will have time after the 10:00 a.m. service (one service Sunday) to gather in Community Hall to enjoy cake and offer our farewell blessings to him.

continued on page 6
I’m excited to introduce myself as the new Director of Christian Education! I’m thrilled to be here with you and I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible in the coming months. During my last year of seminary, I prayed often that I was being prepared for a church and they for me.* There are many reasons I’m here at Westminster, but I want you to know that during my weeks of discernment last spring, God brought you continually to my mind, and made it clear to me through friends, family, and mentors that this was indeed that match. I’ve felt welcomed and valued since the very first phone call in April. I’m praying that God will help me to live up to the high calling of ministry here. And I’m very lucky that it’s here.

My job is to educate and form. But it’s also to equip you, my brothers and sisters and siblings in Christ, to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This church is full to the brim with ministers, leaders, and teachers. This mission of formation is a mission of the whole church, and you are fulfilling it already. I’m so blessed to lead an exceptional team.

Many hopes and fears attend hiring a new person to do a job so well done for 14 years. I want to assure you that I understand what it’s like to love a changing church. It’s sometimes sad. I have cried for ‘the way things were.’ There are and will be disappointments, surprises, mistakes, and grief for lost things. I hope that I can be a good part of the change here, but you will still miss Susan. That’s okay. I’m here not to tear down the foundation or try to change everything, but to follow God with you down this new path.
The prophet Micah famously summed up God’s demand on us this way: “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” This is all I can hope will come from Christian education. I know I’m often tempted to lean especially hard on one of these three pillars of righteousness and ignore the others. It’s a rare church that can claim to do all of them well. I believe in Westminster, and I chose to come here, because I believe that you honestly and tenaciously try, and are very often successful. But more than that, I believe in the One who began a good work within us and will see it through to the end (Philippians 1:6). So let me reaffirm here what I’ve promised to three other churches in my life — to take part in your work and worship, lift you up in prayer, study with you, support you, and bear witness to the Spirit’s work among you: I will, with God’s help.  

*Full disclosure, I also prayed for a pretty church with a good choir I could sing in. Score.

Chesna

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE 2019 FALL FESTIVAL!

**Sunday, October 27**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Community Hall

The air has turned crisp and the leaves have started to fall. What better way to celebrate the change of season with a festival! Please join us for fellowship and fun in Community Hall following the one 10:00 a.m. worship service. Youth games, crafts, and refreshments provided by the Westminster Deacons. All are welcome to attend!

*Parents: costumes are welcomed! Please change your child after pick up from Godly Care and Sunday School. Thank you!*
STEWARDSHIP 2020: GOD’S VISION STARTS WITH YOU

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light
Hymn 450

God’s vision guides us. In return we offer our gifts to God not as a duty but as a privilege. Stewardship benefits our lives as well as those around us here at Westminster, throughout our community, and the wider world. Join us in pledging your time, talent, and treasure this fall. You truly make a difference, and God knows it!

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9.7

I pledge because of the home we provide for AA and NA
I pledge because of the joy I feel when I walk into the sanctuary
I pledge because of the compassion that others have given me in time of need
I pledge because of the inclusiveness of our church community
I pledge because of the uplifting messages delivered from the pulpit

I pledge because of the inspiring music I hear week after week

I pledge because of our support for the youth of Wilmington through Urban Promise and Camp Promise

I pledge because I value our precious environment and Westminster’s commitment to preserving the planet

I pledge because I care about our youth and the 180° Youth Ministry

I pledge because we house temporarily homeless families

I pledge for all this and so much more

Stewardship Message
Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
Sunday, September 22
9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Lay Stewardship Sermons
Sunday, October 27
9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Celebrating
Paul Fleckenstein

continued on page 8
Celebrating Paul Fleckenstein
Music at Westminster

Upcoming Musical Events

Sunday, November 17
4:00 p.m.
Organist Paul Fleckenstein, in his “quasi-farewell” concert at Westminster. (So named because he’ll still be around for another month and a half.) Solo organ works by J. S. Bach, Horatio Parker, Joseph Jongen, and Edwin H. Lemare, as well as Josef Rheinberger’s spectacular Organ Concerto in F major, with 17-piece orchestra conducted by Dr. Paul Head.

Sunday, December 15
4:00 p.m.
Annual Christmas Musical Celebration, this year featuring Holy Light, a work by Robert Hobby, with the Westminster Choir, brass, percussion, piano, organ, and special guests the Wilmington Handbell Ensemble.
Retirement & Beyond: Diving Into New Waters (Home) For Retirement
Presenter: Fred Schmitt
Fred will help future retirees answer “What do I need for retirement living?” by reviewing 15 facts about independent living locations. This series is not only for people thinking about retirement living, but also for adult children helping their parents consider their options.

Peace and Justice: Economic Justice
Presenter: Sudie Niesen Thompson
Scripture has a lot to say about economic justice and our call as people of faith to care for the most vulnerable among us. With this class, Sudie Niesen Thompson will kick off a three-week series on economic justice by examining how passages from the Old and New Testaments present God’s vision of well-being for all and inform our charge to care for neighbors in need.

Peace and Justice: A Small City with Big City Problems
Prosperity Now/The Racial Wealth Divide Initiative
Facilitator: Sue Linderman
While smaller metro areas tend to have lower rates of racial and economic segregation, Wilmington is an outlier, with high rates of concentrated poverty (racially and geographically), high incarceration rates and limited avenues for economic mobility. The Racial Wealth Divide Initiative launches and implements projects that highlight best practices for eradicating racial wealth inequality.

Retirement & Beyond: Downsizing and Selling Your Home
Facilitator: Gen Wallace-Roe
Getting ready to move or move your parents? Gen Wallace-Roe helps you make the process go more smoothly, covering topics like the benefits of preparing a home inventory, methods for sorting...
one’s household (by room and by category), resources for selling, donating and dispersing household contents and guidelines for engaging family members while keeping the peace.

**OCTOBER 13, 20 AND NOVEMBER 3, 10, 17**

**What’s Not in the Bible**
Facilitator: Bob Cox

Did you know that there were more than four books written about Jesus after his death? Join Bob Cox to explore these other books and learn from other accounts about Jesus’ life.

**OCTOBER 20**

**Retirement & Beyond: Preparing Emotionally and Psychologically for Retirement**
Presenter: Dr. Joshua Thomas

Retirement is something that many dream about during their years of employment. It’s fun to think of what it will be like and how you will spend your time. It’s important to also think about the emotional and psychological aspects of retirement. This major life change is something that requires some proactive measures. Ideally people attending this session should be not yet retired and within 2 to 10 years of retirement. Participants will get a worksheet to help with planning and will begin exploring important issues and options in preparation for retirement. Please note: This session will not focus on the financial aspects of retirement.

**NOVEMBER 3**

**Retirement & Beyond: Strategies and Advance Planning**
Presenter: Richard J. Thomas, CFP®

Retirement today involves many considerations and challenges. A generation ago, the concept of retirement was simpler; most people assumed they’d stop working around age 65, without giving much thought to what they’d do next. Today, retirement is less about retiring from work and more about transitioning to a new phase of life. This requires not just traditional financial planning and “crunching numbers,” but perhaps, more importantly, discerning one’s future to envision what retirement may look like. The best result – and least stress – is achieved when this process is begun well in advance of retirement.

*continued on page 12*

Inequality in Delaware
Presenter: Jack Guerin, Unitarian Universalist Delaware Advocacy Network

We often speak of inequality in theoretical terms and do not see the real-life consequences. According to an October 2018 Census Bureau report, the life expectancy for children born in Centerville exceeds those born in Wilmington near East 12th Street by 18 years. These Census Tracts are less than six miles apart. Explore with us the issues in Delaware that impede equality of opportunity, keeping us from achieving “liberty and justice for all.”
This segment will provide information benefiting anyone – those just starting out, in mid-career, approaching retirement or currently retired.

Topics to be covered will include:

- Social Security benefit strategies
- Investment risk tolerance
- Retirement planning options
- Estate planning
- Eldercare planning

**NOVEMBER 3 AND 10**

**Human Miracle/Human Need**

**Presenter:** Dave McBride

The reconciliation of science and spirituality is an important goal for modern theology. The first class in this series of two addresses the miracle of human existence revealed by science and extended by the arts to uncharted territories beyond our current conceptions. An appreciation of the extraordinary history from the big bang to our human existence demonstrates that what is currently inconceivable can become reality and that our future — both collectively and individually — is boundless with possibilities including the possibility of reunion after death.

The second class discusses the human needs that religion characteristically addresses but that are not being met in the secular world. These needs will be met, and the only question is whether they will be met in a constructive or a destructive manner. One of those needs is the experience of the transcendent, the desire to be part of something bigger than each of us individually. The human miracle described in the first class is an effort to describe a transcendent that is revealed by science and that art attempts to express.

**NOVEMBER 17**

**CEDEPCA: Transforming Lives and Realities in Guatemala**

**Presenter:** Judith Castañeda

See page 25 for full description.

**NOVEMBER 24**

**The Research of Gratitude**

**Presenter:** Dr. Carmelita Whitfield

More than just a feeling... Join us for an engaging and interactive workshop on gratitude. This research-based intervention will walk you through how and why gratitude works, the challenges gratitude can present and what daily gratitude practices look like.

**Let’s Talk About It**

**Facilitator:** Sue Linderman

To varying degrees, everyone recognizes that racism and prejudice have a profound impact on our communities and our country. We need opportunities to experience the challenges and benefits that come from bringing racial issues into the light of day. All are welcome to join us in these dialogues as we continue the journey of exploring our national history and our beliefs about race, with openness to differing opinions and respect for one another.
DEALING WITH DEMENTIA

Tuesday, October 22
6:30 p.m. in Grace Hall

The October Stephen Ministry meeting will feature a speaker from the Alzheimer’s Association. The program, entitled “Effective Communication Strategies,” deals with how to decode the verbal and behavioral messages of a person with dementia, as well as identifying strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease. All Westminster members and friends are welcome.

MANAGING HOLIDAY STRESS

Tuesday, November 19
6:30 p.m. in Grace Hall

The holiday season can be a wonderful time of the year! It can also be a very stressful time, especially for people who have experienced loss. Dr. Josh Thomas, Executive Director of NAMI Delaware, will present on signs that someone may be experiencing stress or experiencing depression and strategies that can help us manage holiday stress and grief. All members and visitors are invited to join the Stephen Ministry Group for this important educational time.

STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING

In January 2020, Stephen Ministers will begin a new training class. The training is once a week on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in Grace Hall. There are two Saturday classes which count as two sessions. All the knowledge and skills you need to be a good Stephen Minister are taught in these classes. If you think you might be interested, please contact a Stephen Leader: Jill Getty (302-220-7081), Ellie Furry (302-239-4937), Jerry Spilecki (302-479-9507), or Sue Weissinger (302-530-5260). Listening is the greatest gift you can give someone.
FALL 2019
EDUCATION AND FORMATION
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sundays at Westminster

THROUGHOUT THE MORNING

• **Nursery** (infant – young age 2)
  Available 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. every Sunday.
  Please check your child in at the PreK desk by filling out a yellow nametag and pick-up ticket.
  *Location: PreK area.*

• **Godly Care** (older age 2 – age 4)
  Available during the 9:00 service and the 10:10 education hour.
  We have play time, coloring, snack, and a lesson using the *Deep Blue* preschool curriculum. Kids begin in the worship service and may leave with teachers following the “Time with Our Children.”
  Please fill out a yellow wristband (available in the pews) and pick up your child in the PreK area.
  *Location: PreK area.*

9:00 A.M.

• **Godly Play** (kindergarten – grade 2)
  This is a time of worship designed especially for young children. Using Montessori-style learning, storytellers facilitate deep engagement with scripture, liturgical habituation, and a sense of sacred space. Kids begin in the worship service and may leave with teachers following the “Time with Our Children.” Please fill out a yellow wristband (available in the pews) and pick up your child in the PreK area. *Location: Ruth Christie Room and PreK area.*

• **Sing to Praise Choir** (grade 3 – grade 6)
  See page 16.
10:10 A.M.

- **Joyful Noise Choir** (kindergarten – grade 2)
  See page 17.

- **Creation Station** (grade 3 – grade 6)
  Children engage with the sermon text using art. Please take your child from choir to Creation Station. *Location: Classroom 4.*

- **Agora** (grade 7 – grade 12)
  Join us on the first Sunday of the month for discussion on a topic related to our walk of faith. *Location: Classroom 7.*

5:00 — 7:00 P.M.

- **180° Youth Group** (grade 6 – grade 12)
  Come join us for dinner, games, and friendship! Bring friends, questions, and your authentic self. *Location: Community Hall.*
Hello Parents and Youth of WPC!

I am very excited to start this year working to bring glory to God through music and praise with the youth here at Westminster. Magical things have been happening to prepare for a new and “rejuvenized” musical year, including a complete overhaul of the Youth Music Room (come down to see!). Please find below the descriptions of each of our current youth music offerings, with more to come in the future. I hope you will consider being involved in one of these programs, and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings!

Sincerely,
Alexis Nicole Droke
Director of Music for Children and Youth

**Sing to Praise Choir** (grade 3 – grade 6)
Sunday morning, 9:15 – 10:05 a.m.
Children’s Music Room

Sing to Praise Choir is the next level in the youth choir paradigm at Westminster. Maintaining the focus on combining biblical literacy and classic hymnody with music education, Sing to Praise further develops children’s musical pedagogical knowledge with more advanced lessons in a fun environment with God-centered values. The Sing to Praise Choir will sing in the worship service three times this semester: October 27, November 24, and December 24 (for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service). Additional singing opportunities and field trips are being explored. Youth in this program will begin in the worship service and exit with teachers following the “Time with Our Children.”

Parents, please remember to provide a filled-out yellow tag for your child before releasing them for the “Time with Our Children” in the service, and pick up your child in the Children’s Music Room after the service.
Joyful Noise Choir (kindergarten – grade 2)
Sunday morning, 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.
Children's Music Room

Joyful Noise is an age-appropriate singing ensemble that combines biblical literacy and classic hymnody with music education. Youth will play and learn primary level music reading and ear training skills while also being enriched with God-focused lessons. The Joyful Noise Choir will sing in the worship service three times this semester: October 27, November 24, and December 24 (for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service). Additional singing opportunities and field trips are being explored.

Parents should accompany children from Godly Play to the Children’s Music Room.

YAP@WPC (grade 6 – grade 12)
Sunday afternoon, time TBA
Children’s Music Room

We are happy to announce this new program as a way to revitalize the youth instrumental offering at Westminster. This “Young Artist Program,” or “YAP,” will seek to support and empower middle school and high school-aged instrumentalists and vocalists to use their musical talents in worship, either as soloists or as part of a small ensemble. This program is still in development.

If your child is interested in this program, please email Alexis Droke at alexisdroke@wpc.org and list “YAP@WPC” in the subject line.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

Do you feel called to use your gifts to advance the work of Westminster? If so, the Nominating Committee invites you to prayerfully consider joining the leadership of our church. There are three governing boards of the church: the Board of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, and Session (Elders). Candidates are elected to a three-year term and can be re-nominated for a second three-year term. The Nominating Committee is working on a slate of candidates for each of these boards, which will be presented to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting in January. If you would like to be considered for one of the boards or wish to nominate another member, please contact Convener Karen Dietz (kdietz@verizon.net or 302-656-0343) or Co-Convener Carrie Saathoff (carriesaathoff@hotmail.com or 302-230-1799).
EARTH CARE: REDUCE YOUR PLASTIC USE

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

Plastic is one of the most common types of materials used in everyday life since it is inexpensive, moldable, and non-corrosive. As a result, the planet is getting overwhelmed by plastic: humans have produced 8.3 billion tons of the material since 1950 (half of which was produced in the last 13 years), with the majority of it now in landfills, the ocean (8 million metric tons is added per year)\(^1\), or elsewhere in the environment.\(^2\) The degradation period for plastic ranges from short times, even less than a year, to very long times (i.e. hundreds of years), and science is still determining how long complete degradation is defined, but it is nevertheless clear that the material is piling up in our environment. Furthermore, a recent scientific study estimates that people ingest 39,000 to 52,000 plastic microparticles, and inhale 74,000-121,000 plastic microparticles, per year.\(^3\)

While there are many ways to reduce your plastic consumption, even going completely plastic-free,\(^4\)\(^-\)\(^6\) some simple habits can significantly reduce your plastic consumption. Eleven recommendations, chosen based on the ease of implementation and the impact on reducing plastic waste and other environmental benefits, are listed below.

1. Consider what you buy, making sure that it is needed. 40% of plastic produced is one-time use packaging,\(^7\) so ask yourself if the item, with its associated packaging, is truly needed. Also, consider buying second-hand items since plastic packaging is generally associated with new items.

2. Consider what you throw away. For each plastic item in the trashcan, consider if there is a less-wasteful or plastic-free alternative.

3. Reduce your plastic trash bag consumption by recycling as much as possible and composting organic waste.

4. Request no straw with your beverage when ordering at a restaurant (Americans consume enough straws each day to wrap around the earth’s circumference 2.5 times).\(^8\) If you particularly like drinking from a straw, carry a reusable one with you.
5. Non-plastic, biodegradable “doggie bag” containers are now available for restaurants and takeout locations. You can request these when you dine, driving change through consumer demand.

6. Keep a reusable water bottle, coffee mug, containers and utensils nearby (e.g., in your car or office) for use instead of ordering disposable items at coffee stands and take-out establishments.

7. Carry reusable shopping bags. Also, carry reusable produce bags for the grocery store.

8. Use reusable containers with packed lunches. Alternatively, wash sandwich and food storage bags for reuse instead of discarding them.

9. Buy bulk items and portion them into reusable containers instead of purchasing individually packaged items.

10. Try reusable natural beeswax coated food wraps instead of disposable plastic cling film.

11. Since cleaning products are almost always in plastic containers, consider using vinegar-based household substitutes (it’s easy: one part water, one part vinegar). Other, more sophisticated eco-friendly cleaning products can be found locally at Harvest Market Natural Foods in Hockessin.

References
1. Plasticoceans.org
2. June 23, 2019 article from The Guardian
4. “A beginner’s guide to plastic-free living”, Treehugger.com
5. “100 Steps to a Plastic-Free Life”, MyPlasticFreeLife.com
6. “Two Years of Living Plastic Free: How I Did it and What I’ve Learned,” OneGreenPlanet.org
7. National Geographic
8. TheLastPlasticStraw.org
WESTMINSTER PEACE & JUSTICE WORK GROUP

As part of our work in connecting within our congregation and with the surrounding community, our Peace & Justice Work Group has adopted a logo that will accompany our work and our communications. Many thanks to Director of Marketing and Communications, Nicole Hughes, for her insight and creativity in fashioning this image, which incorporates aspects of Westminster (cross), peace (dove) and justice (scales).

Westminster Peace & Justice Work Group Action Update

Formed by Session action in May 2018, Westminster’s Peace & Justice Work Group is active in a number of areas related to combating violence in Wilmington and promoting racial justice. To date, we have formed subgroups focused on:

- An ongoing speaker series for the community, following the September 2017 talk by Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries and author of “Tattoos on the Heart.” In 2018 we hosted David Kennedy, founder of the National Network for Safe Communities and author of “Don’t Shoot” and, most recently in April this year, we hosted Adam Foss, former Boston-area prosecutor and founder of the non-profit organization “Prosecutor Impact.”

- Providing 10:TEN Adult Education programs that address a wide range of issues associated with violence and racism, as well as opportunities for action, and facilitating periodic discussions on race – “Let’s Talk About It.” See information about our October classes on Economic Justice on page 10.

- Developing a working relationship with another Wilmington-area congregation to facilitate cross-racial dialogue and collaborative action. Our initial interaction with members of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM) took place on September 17. We are looking forward to continuing our dialogue as we seek to build our relationship, expanding our horizons, and pursuing joint projects that facilitate peace and justice in our community.
• Supporting criminal justice reform initiatives and implementing legislation enacted by the Delaware General Assembly. This, our newest initiative, is described in more detail on pages 21-22.

This Work Group and the specific subgroups are open to everyone who is interested in learning more and engaging more deeply in actions to help address the underlying aspects of racism and violence in our community. For more information, please contact Mike Gnade (302-562-4464, mgnade@hotmail.com), Lynne Kielhorn (302-593-5527, lynne@kielhorn.us) or Sue Linderman (302-239-7650, srlinder@dca.net).

**Westminster Speaker Series Presenters Now at Work in Wilmington**

Last fall, David Kennedy introduced the community to Group Violence Intervention (GVI), an evidence-based strategy for reducing street gun violence. At that time, Wilmington Police Chief Tracy was already putting some of the strategy’s building blocks in place, using David Kennedy as a technical resource. Our church facilitated an introductory meeting between Kennedy and Governor Carney. State support and funding for the GVI strategy has been growing. This summer Bobby Cummings was hired by the Department of Health and Social Servicers to serve as the Director of the GVI program. He will put in place additional building blocks so that the community, faith leaders and service providers can engage those at the highest risk of perpetrating violence with authentic offers of support in charting a new course.

In the spring of 2019, Adam Foss spoke to our community about the flaws of the current criminal justice system and the positive impact possible by re-imaging the role of the prosecutor. Recognizing that the strategies he promoted were aligned with the stated vision of then newly elected Attorney General Kathy Jennings, our church facilitated an introductory meeting. The Attorney General’s office has been in regular contact with Adam Foss as a technical resource ever since.

**Peace & Justice Work Group/Delaware Criminal Justice Reform Initiatives**

The United States incarcerates its citizens at a higher rate than any other country in the world. We are home to 5% of the world’s population yet have 25% of the world’s prisoners. Our incarceration rate has increased more than 700% since 1970 as our criminal justice culture moved toward maximizing the number of people sent to prison. Delaware imprisons people at a rate higher than the national average and higher than any of our neighboring states. This is a crisis for the individuals involved, for their families, for the local, state and federal entities that bear the cost burden and, by extension, the taxpayers.

*continued on page 22*
Opportunities for meaningful and effective criminal justice reform abound in Delaware, and in other states as well. During the 2018 Delaware legislative session, 19 relevant bills were introduced; 11 were passed and sent for the Governor’s signature. Chief among these were:

- Returning Discretion to Judges on Concurrent Sentencing
- Drug Code Rewrite
- Adult Expungement Reform Act

The remaining eight bills remain in various stages of consideration, to be taken up by the next legislative session beginning in January 2020. Chief among these are:

- James Johnson Sentencing Reform Act – Key provisions include creation of a sentencing commission, allows for sentence modification, and strikes most drug crimes from the list of violent felonies.
- Fines, Fees, Costs, Penalties and Forfeitures

Our Peace & Justice Work Group will enthusiastically take the lead in providing opportunities for Westminster members and friends to become engaged in this important work by:

- Providing easy-to-use tools to contact your legislative representatives, including organized visits to Legislative Hall;
- Advising you of events and activities that support this work, especially in collaboration with our partners in the Delaware Coalition for Smart Justice, the Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, and the Delaware Center for Justice;
- Leading and/or supporting projects that implement various aspects of criminal justice reform as they are enacted, such as the Adult Expungement Reform Act, which goes into effect on December 31, 2019.

For more information, or to become involved with our Criminal Justice Reform subgroup, please contact Sue Linderman (302-239-7650, srlinder@dca.net).

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Westminster staff give abundant thanks to all of our beloved members and friends in our community and across the globe. Many blessings to you!
Come join our Church in the World Mission Committee and Dr. Serge Makolo, medical director of Institut Medical Chrétien du Kasai (Christian Medical Institute of the Kasai, or IMCK) in Democratic Republic of Congo, for a light dinner and informative discussion. Learn about the hospital’s extraordinary healing efforts and support of the surrounding community in less-than-desirable circumstances.

IMCK is operating in the midst of a civil war and attends to the wounded on both sides, treating patients who seldom pay. The hospital’s expenses outstrip its income. Staff members have worked on reduced salaries for months and struggle to care for their families. Hospital equipment is in need repair. The hospital treats malnutrition, illness and injuries inflicted by violence where more than 60 percent of the country’s population is under age 21.

IMCK is a Christian primary health care facility and medical education center. Its services are centered at the Good Shepherd Hospital in Tshikaji, a 120 bed facility, and at PAX Clinic in Kananga, with 20 beds. General medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, pediatrics, gyn/obstetrics, dental services, radiology and lab services are provided.

Born in Kinshasa, Dr. Makolo graduated from the medical school of the University of Lubumbashi. He also has a degree as a public health specialist. He trained in medical research at the University Libre of Bruxelles and the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. Before coming to IMCK, he worked as a physician in Bilomba and as medical director of the Bilomba General Reference Hospital.

Dr. Makolo said he strives to help IMCK to be an organization with good structures, management bodies, and healthcare services in line with international standards. He wants IMCK to have a reputation that is a model to follow and a reference across the DRC.

Please RSVP Mark Mosher your intentions to attend: mrmosher@comcast.net or (856) 769-1988.
GUATEMALA YOUTH PARTNERSHIP TRIP 2020

Information Session
Sunday, October 20
10:10 a.m. in Classroom 7

Yes – the trip is on!

The Westminster Youth Partnership Trip to Guatemala will be June 16-24, 2020. This trip is open to all CURRENT 10th, 11th and 12th graders who have attended Confirmation Class.

If you have even the slightest inkling about joining us on this trip, please come to our Trip Information Session on Sunday, October 20, at 10:10 a.m. in Classroom 7. This presentation will be for all interested youth and their parents. You will learn more details about the trip, including costs, itinerary, and what to expect. Bring your questions!

Spaces on this trip are limited and will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. So it is very important that you attend this information session if you are considering traveling with us!

To see highlights of our most recent youth trip – check out this video (https://youtu.be/arP2gkReohA)!

Questions? Contact Carrie Saathoff at carrieresaathoff@hotmail.com.

Hasta Luego!
CEDEPCA: TRANSFORMING LIVES AND REALITIES IN GUATEMALA

We are honored to welcome Judith Castañeda, founder and general coordinator of the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), to Westminster for the first time on Sunday, November 17, at 10:10 a.m. Judith will update us on the current political and socio-economic crises that continue to unfold in Guatemala and highlight how CEDEPCA is working on the front lines to address issues of poverty, immigration, violence against women, and climate change.

Judith will be joined by two other CEDEPCA colleagues: Delia Leal, Regional Coordinator of the Women’s Ministry, and Nancy Carrera, Program Coordinator of the Intercultural Encounters Program. They will be visiting New Castle Presbytery for a total of 10 days, worshiping at different churches, making presentations, attending meetings, and of course, having a bit of fun! We are delighted to spend this time together.

New Castle Presbytery took its first Intercultural Encounters trip with CEDEPCA back in 1998. Since then, CEDEPCA has become much more than simply our trip facilitator; they have offered invaluable insight and guidance to us as we navigate our many relationships in Guatemala. Truly, our work in Guatemala would not be possible without CEDEPCA. We are delighted to report that in January of this year, CEDEPCA and New Castle Presbytery signed a formal partnership agreement, reaffirming their commitment to work together to transform lives and realities in Guatemala and beyond. Please join us as we welcome Judith, Delia and Nancy!
The annual Christmas Box project, Westminster’s biggest volunteer mission of the year, will be underway from November 10 through December 16. True, there’s much to do, but Chief Elf Marlys Kerr and her many elves have it all organized for you.

Read on to discover the many joyful ways you, your family and friends can join in this lovely tradition to share Christ’s love. With everyone’s help, our church can again provide a cheerful box full of food and gifts, including handmade cookies and cards, to 125 families in need this Christmas. It’s such a wonderful way to feel and give the joy of the season.

Take a peek behind the scenes! View the short video story produced by PR Elf Louise Eliason. You’re sure to see many members you know, and you just might be a star: http://bit.ly/WPCXmasBox.

How can you participate in WPC’s Christmas Box mission? Check the list below (and check it twice!). There are so many GREAT ways to participate and make this Christmas, oh! so bright. Please watch for updates and any schedule changes in our Weekly Word e-newsletter and Sunday worship announcements.
Beginning November 10, pick one or more Wish Stars from a WPC Christmas tree.

- Find the trees near Rodney Chapel and in the Pavilion, thanks to the Phix-It Elves.
- Select one or more Wish Stars with gift requests.
- Record your Wish Star number and your name into the log book by each tree. This step is so important. (What would elves do without an accurate Wish List?)
- Shop and buy a $10 – $20 gift for the Wish Star child or adult indicated on each star you take. Pick up a red tri-fold Christmas Box brochure by each tree. It’s stuffed with great gift suggestions and buying guidelines from Gift Elf Sara Geuder and friends. (The range of $10-$20 per gift is suggested so that children within each family are treated in a similar manner. Please buy gifts that will fit into our 12-inch and 16-inch square packing boxes. No battery-operated toys – not all families can afford batteries.) Oh! How the elves think all this through!
- Don’t be late! **Sunday, December 8** is the last day to bring your donated canned or boxed food items and wrapped gifts to church (with Wish Star attached to the outside of each wrapped package!) and deposit in one of the collection bins. (Please deposit only the below listed canned and boxed food items.)
- Have a question? Ask an Answer Elf located at each tree, or email PR Elf Louise Eliason at PR@eliasonassoc.com to connect you.

Donate any of these Christmas dinner food items by Sunday, Dec. 8.

(Tip from Foodie Elf Carol Mosher: Shop at ShopRite’s Can Can sale to buy and save on a tray of these!)

- Boxed: cereal and stuffing mix
- Canned: sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, and fruit
- Place donations in any one of the collection bins at various locations around the church.

continued on page 28
Write a check to WPC for the purchase of food certificates.

- Write “Christmas Box Project” on the memo line of your check.
- These donations will buy ShopRite gift certificates so that families can buy a turkey or other main course for Christmas dinner.

Write a check to WPC to buy a toy for each of the children.

- In addition to the Wish Star gift, a “Santa Gift” will be purchased by Shopper Elves for each child age 12 and under.
- Write “CB Toys” on the memo line of your check.
- Checks can be placed in the collection plate on Sunday mornings or mailed to the church.

Save the date! Plan to attend the Christmas Box Packing and Potluck Dinner Party on Friday, December 13, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Community Hall. This is truly a joyous evening for everyone!

- Don your Santa hat, make or buy a dish to share with eight, and bring your friends and family, plus your scissors and tape! After enjoying the potluck supper together, packing instructions will be given and then the wrapping and packing festivities begin. With lots of hands, we’ll wrap it up in no time. So, bring your family, bring a friend, or come solo and join your WPC family for this truly joyful occasion.
Be a dear and volunteer!

Please join WPC’s elves in any of these upcoming Christmas Box tasks and activities. Volunteer for as little or as much as you can. There’s something for everyone to do! How about you?

- Kids, parents and elves unite! Join in the Advent card-making workshop in Community Hall on **Sunday, December 1**, during the 10:TEN education hour. The cards will bring cheer to Christmas Box recipients and be distributed by WPC carolers to senior centers. For more information about this card making workshop, contact Christmas Card Elf Paula Piercy (610-444-1480 or paulagpiercy@gmail.com).

- Help Foodie Elf Carol Mosher for a few minutes after 9:00 a.m. service each Sunday from **November 7 through December 8** to move donated food items and star gifts from the collection bins to the Christmas Box storage area. To volunteer, please contact Foodie Elf Carol Mosher (cemosher@comcast.net).

- Bake cookies for the Christmas boxes on **Saturday, December 7**. Cookie elves will gather in the Westminster kitchen from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please sign up in advance with Master Cookie Elf Jim Carter (jtcarterphoto@comcast.net).

- Kids, teens and tweens join in and wrap with adults! On **December 8** during the 10:10 hour in Grace Hall, join our Giftie elves and help wrap the kid’s Santa gifts and sort the Wish Star gifts in preparation for box packing night. To sign up, please contact Giftie Elf Sandie Reinicker (reinickskw@aol.com or 302-234-0331).

- Help out at the Christmas Box Packing and Potluck supper party on **Friday, December 13**, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.! Volunteers are needed to provide table floral arrangements and to help set up and clean up. To volunteer, please contact Packing Party Elf Debbie Wise (djwise99@gmail.com or 703-283-6440).

- Help out on Distribution Day, **Monday, December 16**. Hospitality elves, Chauffeur elves, and Distribution elves are needed on this day to assist gift recipients to pick up and take their Christmas Box home. To volunteer, contact Chief Elf Marlys Kerr (marlyskerr@aol.com).

Christmas is coming!

For more information, contact Chief Elf Marlys Kerr (marlyskerr@aol.com), any of the above mentioned elves, or ask the Answer Elf on duty at each Wish Star tree on Sundays starting November 10. Also watch for updates and any schedule changes in our *Weekly Word* e-newsletter and Sunday worship announcements.

And, remember, the last day to bring your donated food and gift items is **Sunday, December 8, 2019**.

*Thank you in advance for your heart felt generosity and grace.*
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 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. Ask for the church group in the back. Upcoming brunch dates **October 6, 20** and **November 3, 17**.

**Friday Night Dinners**

On non-brunch weekends, we gather for dinner on Friday night. Dates and locations are below. We must have reservations, so please be sure to RSVP **by Tuesday of that week** so we can include you!

- October 11 – Taverna in North Wilmington – contact Bill Kaye (billkaye3@verizon.net)
- October 25 – Sovana Bistro in Kennett Square, PA – contact Nancy Colbert (colbert055@comcast.net)
- November 8 – Spaghetti Dinner at the WPC Bazaar, 5:00 p.m.
- November 22 – La Tonalteca at 1237 Churchmans Road, Newark, DE - contact Cathy Lang (cathylang@wpc.org)

**Grounds for Sculpture – October 6**

We’ll visit “Grounds for Sculpture” in Hamilton, New Jersey. If interested, contact Nancy Colbert (colbert055@comcast.net) by **October 1** in order to purchase a timed ticket. We will carpool from the church parking lot.

**Festival of the Trees – November 24**

Located at Brantwyn. Benefits the Delaware Hospice. We gather together after church to go to this annual event.

**Organ Concert with Paul Fleckenstein – November 17**

Concert and reception starting at 4:00 p.m.

If you have an event you would like to plan and organize, please contact Bill Kaye (billkaye3@verizon.net) or Cathy Lang (cathylang@wpc.org). Group emails can be sent to assist in organizing. Thanks!
If you peeked into Community Hall on September 8, during the midst of the Food Truck Festival, there it was. How could you miss it? Actually, it was easy to miss because a gigantic jumping castle and a smaller bouncy slide attracted all the attention. Beneath these wonderful playthings lay something new, something that manifests the Property Committee’s ongoing commitment to maintain our sacred structure. Looking down, you would have noticed new carpeting. The old covering had become worn and stained and required replacement. So, too, had the carpet in Grace Hall and adjacent hallways.

For most of us, choosing a carpet pattern or paint color is a hopeless task. Thankfully, four church members — Wendy Hatch, Camilla Jones, Mary Lou McDowell, and Donna Collins — came to the rescue and, working with Paul Crothamel, selected three patterns which could be installed wall-to-wall in two-foot squares, rather than continuous rolls.

The squares offer many advantages: greater durability, easier installation, and less waste during the installation process. And, most importantly, if one square is damaged or stained, it can be readily replaced. We hope, however, you won’t consider this an excuse to spill a few drops of coffee while munching on a bagel from the Holy Toast Café! But if you do, we can take care of it. Enjoy the new carpets.

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3, at 2:00 a.m. Don’t forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 2!
Annual Bazaar

Friday, November 8, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Collectibles, White Elephants, Children’s Department,
Books, Baked & Gourmet Specialties, Gift Boutique,
Handcrafts, Holiday Shop

Hot Dog Stand
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Traditional Spaghetti Dinner
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Thank you everyone for donating treasures, time, and energy.
Invite others to enjoy this one-day-only bargain experience! All net proceeds support WPC local and global mission outreach efforts.