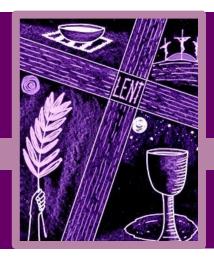


45 West Lockwood Ave. • Webster Groves, MO 63119 314-962-9210 • wgpc.org

2nd Sunday in Lent • February 25, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.

Our Mission:
We seek to live Christ's love,
welcome all people, and joyfully serve God.



As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

• When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE "The Old

"The Old Rugged Cross"
Shawn Portell, piano

arr. Joel Raney

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Betsy Wacker

(Please rise in body or spirit.)

- L: Glorify God, who creates all things, worship the Lord in wonder and awe.
- P: We proclaim the glory of the Lord, full of mercy and abounding in steadfast love.
- L: Let all the ends of the earth return to God.
- P: Let all the people of God rejoice together.
- L: Follow Jesus wherever he leads. Trust the One who gives us life.
- P: We shall walk with the Lord, who walks with us every day.

† OPENING HYMN

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" (see music in back of bulletin)

Stewart Townsend

† CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Jim Poinsett

L: Looking deep within ourselves,
we see a barrenness that dwells within our souls.
Reluctant to trust God's covenant,
we find our faith wavering when we are faced with difficult choices.

- P: We look for easy solutions, rather than for God's answers.
- L: Let us be honest with ourselves, and with God, praying together, and making our confession . . .

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray:

P: Faithful God,

you call us to take up our cross and follow, as Jesus called his disciples.

But we want to hold on to what we know.

We are afraid to take risks for the sake of the gospel; we want to keep our lives safe.

Forgive us: for our lack of trust;

for our faithless living;

for closing our ears to the call of a new future.

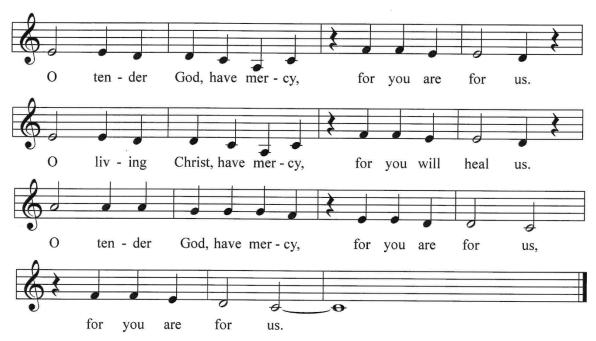
Forgive us, so we may lay aside all that keeps us from you, so we may take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

† CONFESSION RESPONSE

"O Tender God, Have Mercy"

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

(Sing refrain at the hand motion of the cantor.)



♦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God does not reject us, God redeems us.

P: Forgiven, we can follow;

filled with hope, we can empty ourselves for others.

L: Friends, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

† PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.



Proclaiming God's Word

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Betsy Wacker

L: O God, throughout the generations,

your covenant promise has sustained us.

Open our hearts and minds to your Word for us this day.

Guide us as we continue our Lenten journey toward wholeness,

that we may become Christ's disciples, faithfully doing your will. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 22:23-31

Pew Bible pg. 501 Betsy Wacker

- ²³You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- ²⁴For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. *Continued* >>

- ²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- 30Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
- ³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.
- L: The Word of the Lord.
- P: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38

Pew Bible, pg. 44

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Jim Poinsett

Responding to God's Word

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Trusting in God's promises, let us pray for the world and for our needs, saying, Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, you blessed Abraham and Sarah and promised to make them the ancestors of many nations. In Jesus Christ you have opened your covenant to everyone who lives by faith in you.

Continued >>

L: For all the descendants of Abraham and Sarah, both Jews and Christians, that they may trust in your promise, dwell together in peace, and be a sign of your abiding love, Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, Jesus your Son called disciples to follow his way of sacrificial love. For all pastors and teachers, that they lead the church by humble example, take up their cross in faithful service, and live for the sake of the gospel, Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, your reign encompasses all the earth, though many do not remember your gracious sovereignty. For peace among the nations and for integrity within governments, that your will be done on earth as in heaven, Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of the poor, and you satisfy the hungry with good things. For the poor and the oppressed, that they may find deliverance, and for all who voluntarily take up the cross of self-denial to serve the poor and alleviate human misery, Holy God, hear our prayer.

God, you know the needs of the afflicted and you hear the cries. For those who suffer illness of mind or body, that they may find relief from suffering and be restored to wholeness,

(JOYS AND CONCERNS)

Holy God, hear our prayer.

Grant these prayers, Holy God, by your grace. Stir up in us the will to seek out your kingdom with the dedication of our lives in ministry to the world, for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.** L: What will it profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life? With all humility, let us make our offering to God, trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

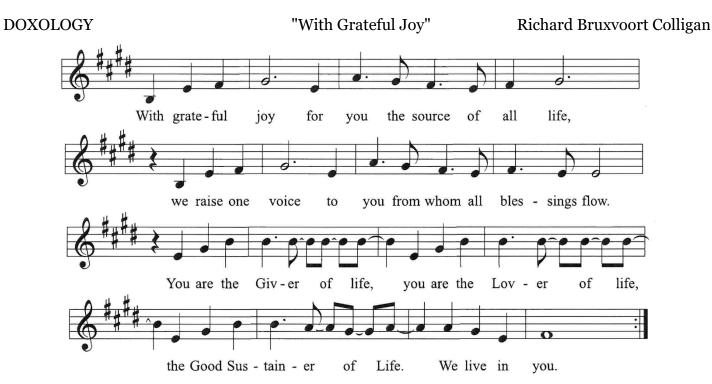
OFFERING

(For those not using the offering plate, your offering can be made by texting ALMS to 73256 or using the QR code to the right)



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Chancel Choir Hal Hopson



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

L: Let us pray:

O God, from generation to generation, you have blessed us with life and abundant love. Use the gifts we bring to restore hope to the hopeless and faith to those who despair.

We give these gifts that we may follow you with all our heart. Amen.

Sending

† CLOSING HYMN #543

"O Christ Surround Me"

GREEN TYLER

† CHARGE

L: Disciples of Jesus, do not shun the way of the cross, but follow wherever our Lord may lead.

† BLESSING

L: May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, uphold you on the way.

Welcome to WGPC

- FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.
- CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP: The nursery (designed for children from newborn through three) is open from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. But if you need to step out of the Sanctuary, the new Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) will be open with a comfy place to relax with toys, books, coffee, and a live-stream of the worship service.
- COMMUNION: Everyone is invited to participate in Communion including children and the unbaptized.
- ASSISTIVE DEVICES: Hearing devices, large print hymnals, and cushions are available. One of our ushers will be happy to assist you.
- WELCOME BAGS: If you are a visitor or know someone who might be interested in WGPC, please pick up a red welcome bag at our Welcome Station in the main hallway or at the church entrances.

Those Who Serve Today

Liturgist: Betsy Wacker

Greeters: Ruth Clynes and Laurel Tinsley

Ushers: Freda Cook, Margy Beggs-Irwin, George

Irwin, Dave Morris

Tech Team: Lia Fairbanks, Tom McNeely, Rob Meyer, Spencer Roudebush, Joey Stokes, and Dennis Wacker

Nursery Caregiving Team: Anna Stokes, Debbie Goss, Tammy Graning, Sophia Kenow, and Carrie Rao

Flower Deliverers: Jennifer Blumenkemper and Nancy Hansbrough

Office Assistance: Leigh Porter

The Chancel Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God, the gift of Phil and Gay Moppert.













Online Worship: Our worship services are live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website (wgpc.org) and YouTube pages. Children's participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Resources: Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by: Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012; Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2 © 2014; Westminster John Knox Press from Book of Common Worship © 2018.

Ministry Staff

314-962-9210

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel, III (ext. 3201),

efz@wgpc.org

Parish Associate: Rev. Jim Poinsett

(c) 703-587-5003, jamespoinsett@gmail.com

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Director of Music Ministries: Shawn Portell

(ext. 3211), <u>spp@wgpc.org</u>

Mission Outreach Coordinator: Beth Kazlauskas

(ext. 3208), <u>bok@wgpc.org</u>

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(ext. 3206), <u>jls@wgpc.org</u>

Director of Welcome and Involvement: Michelle Lepak (ext. 3102), mml@wgpc.org

Assistant Administrator: Joyce Kimmons

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(ext. 3202), <u>baf@wgpc.org</u>

Administrative Assistant: Barb Gaugh (ext. 3210), bag@wgpc.org

Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Souchek (ext. 3204), mks@wgpc.org

Educational Ministries/Digital Communications: Cherstin Byers (ext. 3205), chember 2, chember 2</a

Nursery Caregiver: Anna Stokes

Custodians: (ext. 3212)

Pete Brennan (Supervisor) <u>pjb@wgpc.org</u>

Pierre Campbell Ken Kastner

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Art Webster, chq2@fairpoint.net

February 25, 2024 Announcements

WORSHIP

Congregational Meeting is Today

Please join the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Association called by the Session in the Sanctuary after Worship this morning. It will also be live streamed. The purpose of the annual meeting is to receive the annual report, approve the minister's terms of call, review the budget, and to hold the Annual Meeting of the Association. Children who are in Sunday School will move into the nursery following Worship, so parents and teachers are able to attend the meeting.

... and Stay for the Treats!

After the meeting, please come to Fellowship Hall and enjoy some delicious breakfast treats, courtesy of a generous gift from an anonymous donor specifically designated for special fellowship.

Music in a Great Place, 2023-2024

The Way of Jesus

A Hymn Festival in Word and Song about Jesus' Mission Composed by Hal Hopson



Next Sunday, March 3, 9:30 a.m. Worship

WGPC Chancel Choir, Handbell, Timpani and singing guests

The hymn festival The Way of Jesus provides a unique experience in hymn singing. The congregation and choir will sing ten hymns from various Christian traditions including "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus," "Lord, When You Came to Jordan," "Jesus Calls us O'er the Tumult," "Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire," "This Little Light of Mine," "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want," "Be Thou My Vision," and "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" only to mention a few. In addition we will hear Jesus' words which compelled his hearers to listen attentively. His message was charged with an urgency for decision-making in favor of life, hope, and peace. In his life and speech, the new reign of God had come near. Thus before the world knew Jesus' followers as "Christians," it knew them as "followers of The Way."

Q and A Session About Pastor Ed's Sabbatical

Next Sunday, March 3, following Worship

Next Sunday, the Sabbatical Advisory Committee invites you to a Question-and-Answer Session with Pastor Ed to learn more about his sabbatical plans. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We look forward to further engagement with the broader congregation regarding this exciting and regenerative time for Ed and WGPC. A potential theme for the sabbatical is exploring our Presbyterian roots which would include travel in both the U.S. and Europe. One clarification is that Ed's plans are to be on sabbatical for a period of four months (May through August 2025). Hope to see everyone on March 3!

– Carrie Rao, Brenda Dribin, Jessica Gatewood, and Tim Currinder

For the original announcement about the Sabbatical see the Friday Flash.

FELLOWSHIP

Celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at an All Church Breakfast!

Sunday, March 10, following Worship in the Sanctuary

Join your church family for a fun, Baptism Sunday Celebration that will include delicious food, fun activities for our children and families, a chance to check out the new renters in our building, and more! **The event is being funded by a generous gift**



from Carol and Art Webster (pastor emeritus) and extended as an offering of gratitude to God for Carol's successful surgery and an expression of thanks to the congregation for their loving support during Carol's recuperation. In addition to providing a wonderful breakfast, their donation allowed us to purchase an additional 35 replacement chairs for Fellowship Hall. We give thanks for their generosity and their ongoing commitment to the vitality of WGPC! So, come and join us on March 10 to enjoy comfortable seats and good eats!! To make a reservation, visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links or contact Michelle Lepak at mmil@wgpc.org or 314.962.9210, ext. 3102.

Beware of Phishing Emails

Pastor Ed's name is occasionally used by scammers in phishing emails. Please be sure to check the email domain prior to opening messages that appear to be from Pastor Ed. Authentic emails will come from efz@wgpc.org. Pastor Ed will never email you asking you to buy gift cards or send money. If you find an email suspicious, don't open it! For more tips on protecting yourself from phishing scams, see the Friday Flash for information from IQ Computing, WGPC's information technology service company.

Theology on Tap

This Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m., at Walnut Grill (10797 Sunset Hills Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63127).

Monthly informal conversations about faith and life. For more information, contact Scott Lyon at 636-675-7893 or silyon33@gmail.com.

MISSION

Come, Learn About the 2024 Agape Mission Trip to New Orleans!

Initial meeting to learn more: Next Sunday, March 3, at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

Trip: Sunday, June 2, through Sunday, June 9
Registration deadline: Sunday, March 10



We're headed to New Orleans to attend Camp RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans) and experience a week of intense urban mission learning about the needs of New Orleans while being a part of rebuilding it. The trip is open to all current

8th–12th graders (must be 14 years-old by June 3, 2024). Anyone interested is encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the trip and what to expect.

Give-A-Meal-A-Month February Menu

Help those served by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries by purchasing a bag of menu items and dropping it off in the Mission Hub. The GAMAM February menu is: canned beef stew, canned pears or oranges (lite or in fruit juice), box of crackers, and salt-free seasoning. Additional needs: laundry detergent.

Lenten Mission Collection: Essential Cleaning Supplies for SITO

Many of the tenants of Sanctuary in the Ordinary (SITO), one of WGPC's mission partners, are individuals doing the hard work of transitioning out of homelessness into stable housing. As we enter into the

season of Lent and a time where we will be remembering our baptism, we are excited to share a new opportunity to extend our support for these individuals. Just as baptism represents a



fresh start and spiritual renewal, we will be collecting essential cleaning supplies as a practical gift of grace and renewal for individuals embarking on this new chapter in their lives. We invite you to join us by donating items such as buckets, mops, all-purpose cleaner, dish soap, and toilet bowl cleaner and brushes to be assembled into "Welcome Home" baskets for tenants as they move into new apartments. To sign up to donate items, use the QR code or go to

wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links.
There will be a collection bin for items in

There will be a collection bin for items in the Mission Hub. Together, let's extend the love of Christ with this simple gift.

Shopping Day to Benefit Our ECC

Tuesday, March 12, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Paisley Boutique, 36 W. Lockwood, and Collections by Joya, 46 W. Lockwood



Don't miss a fun morning of shopping and getting to know neighbors that will benefit the WGPC Early Childhood Center. Paisley Boutique and Collections by Joya will

donate a portion of proceeds from sales on March 12 to our school. Breakfast snacks will be served from 9:00 to 11:30, too! Be sure to stop by!

Dyna-Mic Night Karaoke Party and Fundraiser

Saturday, March 2, doors open at 6:30 p.m. Karoke from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Maryland Heights Community Center, 2300 McKelvey Rd., 63043

Join in the fun of a sensory-friendly karaoke night to benefit Different Dynamics, a center for special music education in the St. Louis area (and new tenants in our WGPC building). For information and tickets, visit DifferentDynamicsSTL.org. For questions, please email yourfriends@differentdynamicsSTL.org. Must be 18 to attend.



Volunteers Needed

Do you like to read? And do you like children? Then being a volunteer reader for Ready Readers might be just the opportunity you are looking for! Readers are assigned a classroom of children under age five at a local early childhood center. Volunteers commit to one full school year and visit their class on the same day and time each week to lead a 30-minute story time. Training and books are provided, and members who volunteered have found it to be very rewarding. For more info, visit readyreaders.org/volunteer/ or email Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org and she can put you in touch with a current volunteer.

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

Sunday (February 25)

Coffee & Conversation with the Lectionary 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School for pre-K – 3rd Graders (starts during Worship)

Celtics 4:00 p.m. Agape 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday (February 27)

Men's Bible Study 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday (February 28)

Theology on Tap 7:00 p.m.

Thursday (February 29)Disciples' Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday (March 3)

Coffee & Conversation with the Lectionary 8:30 a.m.

"Re-membering Baptism" 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School for pre-K – 3rd Graders (starts during Worship)

Making a Home for Faith 4:00 p.m.

Celtics 4:00 p.m. Agape 5:00 p.m.

Detailed information about Faith Formation opportunities can be found online at <u>wapc.org</u> (click on the Ministries tab, then click on Faith Formation).

Re-membering Baptism

Sundays, March 3, 17, and 24, 10:45 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom

Next Sunday, we will continue our multiweek study on the sacrament of baptism which marks our entrance into the people of God, both as infants and adults, and stands at the center of our Christian experience in the church. In this study, we will explore the theological meanings of baptism in the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions which will help us better understand the importance of baptism and the dimensions that mark it as of key importance to us. Additionally, we will discuss the ways baptism has an ongoing and daily significance for Christians in the church. Classes will be led by **Rev. Edward Thompson, Rev. Karen Blanchard,** and **Jeff Buck.**

Making a Home for Faith

Sunday, March 3, 4:00 p.m., in the Parlor and by Zoom

Parents of children of any age are invited to attend our gathering on the topic of "Living Your Faith Everyday" led by Carrie Rao. All are welcome to stay for the youth dinner at 5:00 p.m., but please note that childcare is no longer available for this class.



Enriching Relationships with God, Self, and Others

Saturday, April 20, 9:00-3:00 pm Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, 2039 North Geyer Road, St. Louis 63131 Registration deadline: Friday, March 29

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:14

Do you long for deeper connections? Or wonder how to start and sustain truly meaningful conversations? And how are your listening skills? Are you listening for God's voice? Join us at the WGPC Women's Retreat on April 20 to explore together how to enrich your conversations and connections. Come and bring your friends. All are welcome!

To register, visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links by the deadline of Friday, March 29. The registration fee of \$40 includes lunch and can be paid online (choose "Registration Fee" in the dropdown and add "Women's Retreat" to the memo) or by check mailed to the church (with "Women's Retreat" noted on the memo line).

For more information or questions, please contact Harriet Hall at hallhughes@aol.com or 314-707-4750.

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Words and Music by Stuart Townend

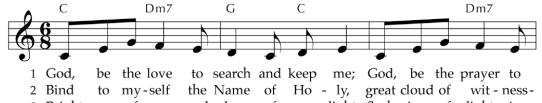


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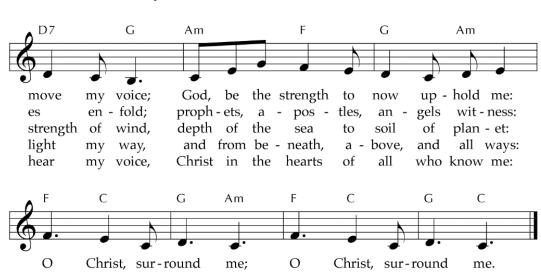
God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

543

O Christ, Surround Me



- 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning, 4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to
- 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION

We seek to live Christ's love, welcome all people, and joyfully serve God.

AGENDA

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel III, Moderator

Announcement of a Quorum

Opening Prayer

I. Approval of the Minutes from January 29, 2023 Carrie Rao

II. Clerk's Report Carrie Rao

III. Approval of the Minister's Terms of Call for 2024 Tim Currinder

IV. Presentation of the Church Budget for 2024 Ryan Furtick

V. Adjournment to the Meeting of the Association Pastor Ed