



WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 West Lockwood Ave. ♦ Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-9210 ♦ wgpc.org

3rd Sunday in Lent ♦ March 3, 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.*

The Way of Jesus *A Hymn Festival in Word and Song about Jesus' Mission* *Composed by Hal Hopson*

Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE

"Celtic Blessing"
Shawn Portell, organ

Jeff Perks

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

✦ OPENING SENTENCES

(Please rise in body or spirit.)

L: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us worship God.

Introduction

NARRATIVE

Matt Miller

(Please be seated.)

The words of Jesus 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. This reign brings with it a hospitality and generosity that ran counter to ancient thought. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," writes John of this Jesus. Thus, before the world knew Jesus' followers as "Christians," it knew them as "followers of *The Way*."

First Reflection: The Way of Jesus Leads Us to Praise and Thanksgiving

NARRATIVE

Deb Grossman

The "way" of Jesus draws his followers into a great chorus of praise. In Luke, we read: "The whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen." The song of the church, especially in hymns, unites us with this ongoing chorus. Let us join our voices with that mighty throng in singing our praise.

The hymn "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" is sung to the rousing Welsh hymn tune "*Hyfrydol*." It was written by Rowland Hugh Prichard when he was only nineteen years old. Sing it as the Welsh would sing it, robustly and full of conviction.

✦ If you are able, please rise as we sing "*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*."



All: 1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
Women: 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
Men: 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our
Choir: 4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
All: 5. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near - us; faith be -
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Ma - ry, earth your
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on
lieves nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you en - tered,
vic - to - ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on



thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out hearts of
when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the songs of
robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both
thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Second Reflection: The Way of Jesus Calls Us to the Water

NARRATIVE

(Please be seated.) The "way" of Jesus calls us to the water of baptism as he himself was baptized by John the Baptist. St. Paul explains that in baptism we are joined to the death and resurrection of Christ. He wrote these words in a letter to the church in Rome, "We have been buried with him by baptism into death so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Brian Wren captures this newness of life in his hymn "Lord, When You Came to Jordan," with these words: "Lord, bring us to our Jordan of newly opened eyes."

Please remain seated as we sing, "Lord, When You Came to Jordan."



Choir: 1. Lord, when you came to Jor - dan and asked to be bap - tized,
All: 2. Was this God's crown - ing mo - ment of all you had be - come,
All: 3. Faith rests con - tent with ques - tions of when and why and how,



what was your vow and vi - sion of love and sac - ri - fice?
the Spir - it's pow'r and bless - ing: "Go now, you are my Son?"
but craves the gift of see - ing what God is do - ing now.



Was there a sud - den splen - dor of proph - ets, priests, and kings,
Did scrip - ture join with scrip - ture in words of sharp sur - prise:
Lord, bring us to our Jor - dan of new - ly o - pened eyes,



a wind that stirred the wa - ters, a blur of might - y wings?
"The Lord's Mes - siah shall con - quer, re - ject - ed and de - spised?"
through love, im - mersed in liv - ing, as you were once bap - tized.

✠ CALL TO CONFESSION

L: (Please rise in body or spirit.)

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

But when we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Trusting in God's grace,
let us confess our sin.

✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray:

**P: Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be
what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light
and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone;
a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

P: Thanks be to God.

Third Reflection: The Way of Jesus Calls Us to True Discipleship

NARRATIVE

Rebecca Lyon

(Please be seated.) The "way" of Jesus calls us to true discipleship. His first disciples knew this well. In Matthew, we read, "As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left the boat and followed Jesus."

"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" is a well-known hymn of discipleship. It is the gospel account of the calling of Simon Peter and Andrew. We, too, as Simon Peter and Andrew, are called to Christian discipleship in answering the call of Jesus, "Come, follow me."

You may remain seated as we sing "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult."



All: 1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest - less sea,
Women: 2. Long a - go the a - pos - tles heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
Men: 3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the vain world's gold - en store,
Choir: 4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
All: 5. Je - sus calls us by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear thy call,



day by day his sweet voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
turned from home and work and fam - 'ly, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
from each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
still he calls, in cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these!"
give our hearts to thy o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Fourth Reflection: The Way of Jesus Compels Us to Love

NARRATIVE

The "way" of Jesus compels us to love. When asked about the Law's greatest commandment, Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord you God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus calls us even to love our enemies. He told us, "If you have love for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples." St. Paul writes, "If I have all faith...but do not have love, I am nothing...Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

St. Paul's eloquent poem on love is paraphrased in the hymn "Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire." The melody is an adaptation by Hal H. Hopson of the English folk tune, "O Waly, Waly," which has been retitled "The Gift of Love."

Please remain seated as we sing "Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire."



Solo: 1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the
Solo: 2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving
All: 3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits

gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are
so my love profess, but not be given by love with -
long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every

vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
in, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

Fifth Reflection: The Way of Jesus Leads Us from Darkness to Light

NARRATIVE

The "way" of Jesus leads us from darkness to light. In John's Gospel we read, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Following the Jesus way calls us to bear this light to others. "You are the light of the world," Jesus said. "No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to God."

The simple song, "This Little Light of Mine" uniquely captures the meaning of these words of Jesus. Its catchy tune is a favorite of adults as well as children. Typical of all spirituals, it is easy to sing and is direct in its message.

✦ If you are able, please stand as we sing "This Little Light of Mine."



OFFERING INVITATION

L: (Please be seated.)

Every generous act of giving
is, itself, a gift from God above.

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)



Sixth Reflection: The Way of Jesus Calls Us to Claim God's Loving Care

NARRATIVE

The "way" of Jesus calls us to claim God's loving care. The metaphor of shepherd is much treasured in this regard. "I am the good shepherd," says Jesus in John's Gospel. "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Psalm 23, The Shepherd Psalm, captures the soul's deep longing for God's presence in our daily lives. This Psalm's most well-known and loved paraphrase is "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want." This metrical setting is Scottish through and through. It first appeared in the *Scottish Psalter*, 1650. The tune, "Crimond," was written by hymn tune composer Jessie Seymour Irvine, who wrote it in 1872.

Please remain seated as we sing "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want."

All in Unison: 1. The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; he
All in Harmony: 2. My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and
Organ: 3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet
Choir: 4. My ta - ble and thou hast fur - nish - ed in
All in Unison: 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall

makes me down to lie in pas - tures green; he
me to walk doth make with - in the paths of
will I fear no ill; for thou art with me,
pres - ence of my foes; my head in thou dost house with
sure - ly fol - low me, and in God's house for -

lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
oil a - noint, and my dwell - ing place shall ver - flows.
ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Loving God,
you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
Hear our prayers for your church and world:
for the hungry and the overfed,

P: may we have enough;

L: for the mourners and the mockers,

P: may we laugh together;

L: for the victims and the oppressors,

P: may we share power wisely;

L: for the peacemakers and the warmongers,

P: may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;

L: for the silenced and the propagandists,

P: may we speak our own words in truth;

L: for the unemployed and the overworked,

P: may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;

L: for the troubled and the secure,

P: may we live together as wounded healers;

L: for the homeless and the pampered,

P: may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;

L: for the vibrant and the dying,

P: may we all die to sin and live to love. Amen.

Seventh Reflection: The Way of Jesus Leads Us to Wholeness

NARRATIVE

The "way" of Jesus leads us to wholeness. It inspires each of us to experience life as a sacred gift from God. Wherever we look in the gospels, we discover Jesus with those who are suffering and in need for life to be restored.

From his prison cell, John the Baptist inquired whether Jesus was, indeed, the one sent by God. Jesus replied, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them." To be made whole is to have our vision restored so that we see more clearly God's presence in our daily lives.

The hymn "Be Thou My Vision" is charged with an earnest prayer for healing and wholeness. This hymn is pure Irish, translated from an ancient poem by two Irish women, Mary E. Byrne and Eleanor Hull. The tune "Slane" is adapted from an old Irish ballad. In both text and tune, "Be Thou My Vision" uniquely captures the poetic beauty and nature of Celtic spirituality.

Please remain seated as we sing "Be Thou My Vision."



All: 1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
All: 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
Choir: 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
All: 4. High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou, mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Shel - ter and Shield you are both to me,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

Eighth Reflection: The Way of Jesus Invites Us to Eat with Him

NARRATIVE

The "way" of Jesus invites all of us to eat with him. Presumed to be a stranger by his own followers on the road to Emmaus, Jesus remained with them for the evening meal. It was when this guest became host, breaking bread at table, that the disciples' "eyes were opened, and they recognized him." Jesus is still made known to all who need him in bread broken and wine poured. For in John, Jesus says to us all, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Sylvia Dunstan, in her hymn "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" expressed this beautifully, especially in the phrase. "All who hunger, never strangers; seeker be a welcome guest." This thought is reinforced as each stanza ends with, "Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good," This fresh, upbeat communion text is appropriately wedded to the catchy, early American tune "Holy Manna."

Please remain seated while we sing, "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly."



All: 1. All who hun - ger, gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
Choir: 2. All who hun - ger, nev - er strang - ers, seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
All: 3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Ninth Reflection: The Way of Jesus Leads Us to Eternal Life

NARRATIVE

The "way" of Jesus leads us to life eternal. Belief in the resurrection is rooted in confidence that God is the living God and therefore will not abandon the faithful at death. Jesus' promises of this are among the most well-remembered passages from the gospel of John: "I have come that (you) may have life, and have it abundantly;" "those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty;" "the water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life;" and "I am the resurrection and the life – those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."

This thought is beautifully expressed in the phrase "Drink the wine of resurrection" from the Brian Wren's Easter hymn, "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" It is appropriately paired, in many hymnals, with the tune "Hymn to Joy," taken from the last movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*.

✦ Please rise for the singing of "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"



All: 1. Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
Choir: 2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
All: 3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un-known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

Tenth Reflection: The Way of Jesus Compels Us to Give Ourselves in Service to Others

NARRATIVE

(Please be seated.) The "way" of Jesus compels us to give ourselves in service to others. As his body, the church, we are called to follow in his way, faithfully bearing our mission and witness to a world sorely in need of hope, healing, and justice.

The song of the church, as represented by this small sampling, has helped us to reflect on the way of Jesus for us today as both "truth" and "life." As these hymns have addressed God's work in the world, so will new poems and melodies be crafted for the purpose of bringing our prayer and praise to song. Thus, the "great cloud of witnesses" continues to grow.

The late hymn writer Jaroslav (Ya-ra-slaf) Vajda (Va-hee-duh) has penned a fitting text that serves well as a blessing for our going forth. In his hymn, "*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*," we are admonished to "grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free." It is sung to the Welsh melody "*Ar hyd y nos*" (*Ar-hid-ā-nōs*).

✦ Please rise for the singing of "*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*."



All: 1. "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
Choir: 2. "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
All: 3. "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

✠ CHARGE

L: Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

✠ BLESSING

L: May grace and peace be yours in abundance
in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. **Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Tune"
Shawn Portell, organ

David German

*You are welcome to stay for the postlude, especially when we have musical guests.
If you would like to respond at the end, please do so with an "Amen."*

Thank you to the extra participants in today's service:

Deb Grossman, Rebecca Lyon, and Matt Miller
(narrators)

Emma Kanerva
(tympani)

***Sandy Hounsom, Linda McNeeley,
John Puterbaugh, and Carolyn Wilson***
(handbells)

Peggy Plesia
(friend of the choir)

Katie Niesen-Cook and Paige Stroud
(choir friends from Glendale Presbyterian Church)

Jeff Ballard, Song Lyu, Sean Stewart, and Diane Watson
(WGPC Music Assistants)

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

Greeters: Linda and Tom McNeely

Ushers: Donna Bellows, Vicki Lane, Bill Schwartz,
Allan Scott

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: Jane Fairbanks and Leigh
Porter

Office Assistance: Leigh Porter

The Chancel Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God
in loving memory of Marge Wilhite, the gift of her
husband, Doyle.



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: *The Way of Jesus: His Mission in Word and Song*, ©
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Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:
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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.

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March 3, 2024 Announcements

WORSHIP

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*



Today, 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

Today, following Worship in the Sanctuary

The Sabbatical Advisory Committee invites you to a Question-and-Answer Session with Pastor Ed to learn more about his sabbatical plans for a period of four months (May through August 2025). This is an exciting and regenerative opportunity 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. Come and learn more!

– 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!

*Next Sunday, March 10, following Worship in the
Sanctuary*

Join your church family for a wonderful Baptism Sunday Celebration that will include a delicious breakfast, some fun activities for our children and families, and a chance to check out the new renters in our building! **Our celebration**



event and 35 new replacement chairs (!) are being funded by a generous gift from Carol and Art Webster (pastor emeritus) in thanksgiving for Carol's successful surgery and in gratitude for our congregation's loving support. While children of all ages are always welcome in Worship, the age limit for nursery care that day will be extended to include kids up to age six. Come enjoy Worship, pick up the kids, and stay for great fellowship while enjoying comfortable seats and good eats! To RSVP, visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links or contact Michelle Lepak at mml@wgpc.org or 314.962.9210, ext. 3102. Hope to see you there!

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.

MISSION

Give-A-Meal-A-Month March 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 March menu is: canned chili, canned fruit cocktail (lite or in fruit juice), cornbread mix, graham crackers, and cooking oil. Additional needs: feminine hygiene products.

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

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

Trip: Sunday, June 2, through Sunday, June 9

Registration deadline: Next 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.

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, visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links or use the QR code. A collection bin for items in can be found 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!



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 (March 3)

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

"Re-mem-bering 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.

Thursday (March 7)

Disciples' Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday (March 10)

Congregation breakfast

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.

Detailed information about Faith Formation opportunities can be found online at wgpc.org (click on the Ministries tab, then click on Faith Formation).

Today's 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.**

This Evening for Parents . . .

Making a Home for Faith

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.



Retreat Reminder!

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

A day to enrich relationships inspired by Heather Holleman's book *The Six Conversations: Pathways to Connecting in an Age of Isolation and Incivility* and partnering with Julie Gvillo from A Place of Grace ministry. To register, visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links by the deadline of Friday, March 29. The \$40 includes lunch and can be paid online. For more information or questions, please contact Harriet Hall at hallhughes@aol.com or 314-707-4750.

Can You Provide Sunday Night Dinner for our Youth?

Our Celtics and Agape members have a joint dinner on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. If you'd like to provide a dinner for them (30 servings with a few vegetarian options),



please sign up at wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links. Bring bring a few guests, stay for dinner, and visit with our young people. The kids will clean up! For more info, email Matt Miller, Director of Youth Ministries, at mam@wgpc.org.

Whom to Contact on Staff

We are a busy church! So that plans can be properly coordinated, please be sure to share your information with the appropriate staff person as follows:

- Adult fellowship activities and membership interest – Michelle Lepak (mmml@wgpc.org)
- Bulletin announcements, calendar, meeting room requests, and Zoom links – Barb Fischer (baf@wgpc.org)
- Friday Flash announcements and children/youth details – Cherstin Byers (chb@wgpc.org)
- Mission projects and collections – Beth Kazlauskas (bok@wgpc.org)
- Music activities – Shawn Portell (spp@wgpc.org)

Bulletin and Friday Flash Deadlines

Announcements for the bulletin and Friday Flash are limited to **150 words or less**. They are due by the end of Tuesday prior to the desired Friday or Sunday. For the bulletin, email baf@wgpc.org. For the Friday Flash, email chb@wgpc.org. If you'd like the announcement to appear in both, please email to both addresses.