

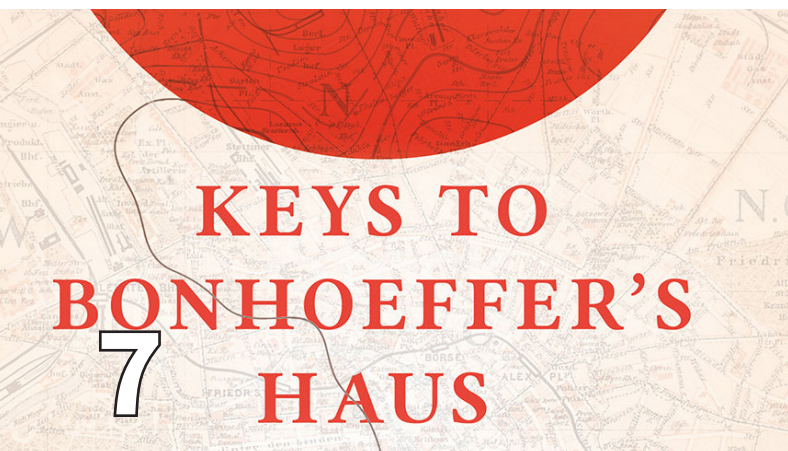


COMMUNITY

The quarterly newsletter for Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 2021 | Volume 45, Issue 4





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Ellen O'Farrell
John Semingson

Newsletter Deadline

October
Deadline September 3

Do you have a story idea or experience you would like to share?
Talk to a pastor, or Kris Pardue, kpardue@nashvillewpc.org.

Front Cover:
Photo by Tom Snider.



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Ken Hande
Hank Hildebrand
Mike Kaminski
Ellie Keiper
Linda Koon
Catie Lee
Sylvia Leins
George Luscombe
Clay Parsons
Ann Schulze
Grace Wagenman

Class of 2023
Hank Abbott
Jonathan Cole
Beth Felch
June Fortson
Susan Hassell
Chuck Higgins, Jr.
Ned Munson
Kate Pennington
Bill Tate
Elizabeth Trabue
Elaine Williams
Tom Wyll

Class of 2024
James Boswell
Kim Crafton
Luke Gebhardt
Ron Harris
Moe Hill
Deb Hudson
Janet Kuhn
Leighton Liles
Fran Linley
Denise Linn
Harriet Sewell
David Thombs

OUR MISSION

With God's help, Westminster Presbyterian Church fosters a caring, diverse, and deeply spiritual community that nurtures lives of faith, hope, and love. Through prayer – and with thanksgiving for God's grace – we seek to grow in the spirit of Jesus Christ, joyfully committing ourselves to worship, study, and service in the local community and the world.

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We make a million decisions every day and most go without notice or fanfare. Some decisions, however, are made through much blood, sweat and tears. Those decisions are generally tied with a prayer of “God help this to be the right decision.”

The church staff made the decision to hold our “Kickoff Sunday” on August 22nd. The lectionary text for that day comes from the book of Joshua. You may remember, Joshua followed Moses, and he was the one who was called upon to lead the people out of the wilderness and into The Promised Land. When Joshua was old and gray, he assembled the People of God and asked them to make a decision to either keep “serving” their old gods or to “serve” the Lord. Joshua tells the crowd, “Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)

Joshua’s affirmation of faith will be a theme throughout this fall season. Join us in the months ahead as we seek to discern and make decisions about hearing God’s call, and making the decision to follow. We will bring to the light the gods that we serve and why they hold so much power over us, but our focus will be on what it means to make the decision to “serve the Lord.”

Be thinking about how you can let go of the gods that cause us to worry and fear. Be thinking about how the Spirit of God has led you through both dark valleys and green pastures. Be thinking about how the Spirit is calling you to decide how to make the decision to serve the Lord with your life.

Hope to see you in worship or online!

Donovan Drake, Senior Pastor

KICKOFF 2021

August 22, 2021

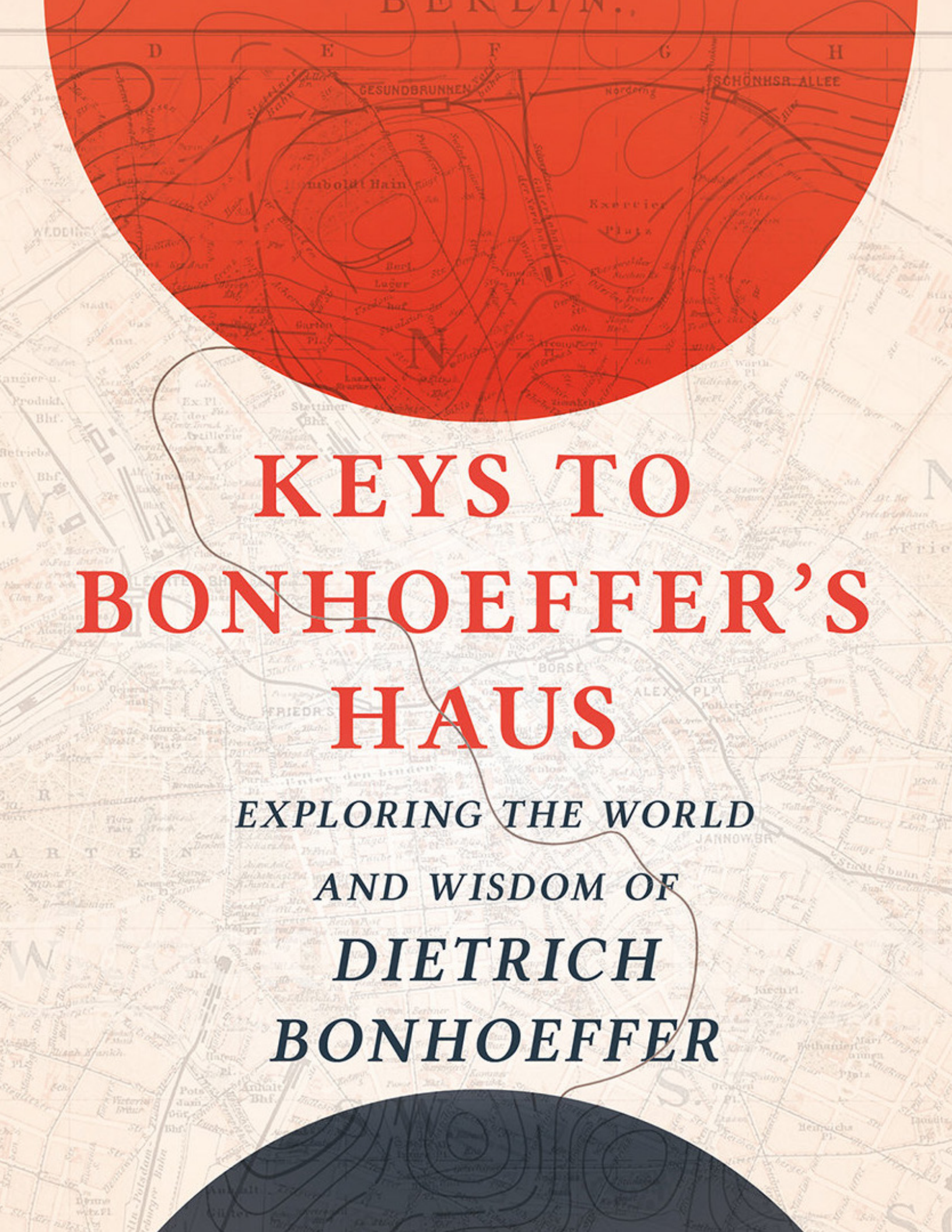
Join us for a fun filled day as we KICKOFF the new school year.

At 9:45 AM, children meet in their new classroom with their old friends. Youth hangout in the Koinonia Cafe and the adults meet in Fellowship Hall and learn all about the fall educational line up.

After 11:00 AM worship, we will have a BBQ lunch and fun. Martin's BBQ will be the caterer. The cost is \$9 for 12 and older, \$5 for 4 - 11, 3 and under eat for free. \$25 family max. Please sign up [here](#).

There will be a dunk tank, mini golf and Blue Monkey Shaved Ice! Come dunk Donovan and have some fun!!





KEYS TO BONHOEFFER'S HAUS

EXPLORING THE WORLD
AND WISDOM OF
DIETRICH
BONHOEFFER

We are very fortunate to be able to welcome Laura Fabrycky to teach for the Covenant Sunday school class on September 12th. She is author of the new book, *Keys to Bonhoeffer's Haus*. While her husband was stationed at the American Embassy in Berlin, Laura became a guide of the Bonhoeffer-Haus in Berlin and takes readers on a tour of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's home, city, and world. She shares the keys she has discovered there--the many sources of Bonhoeffer's identity, his practices of Scripture meditation and prayer, his willingness to cross boundaries and befriend people all around the world--that have unlocked her understanding of her own life and responsibilities in light of Bonhoeffer's wisdom.

Keys to Bonhoeffer's Haus tells his story in new ways and invites us to think beyond him into our own lives and civic responsibilities. Fabrycky shows readers how to consider what befriending Bonhoeffer might mean for us and the ways we live our lives today. Ultimately, through her transformative tour of Bonhoeffer's Berlin, she inspires readers to discover and embrace responsible forms of civic agency and loving, sacrificial action on behalf of our neighbors.

When I led the Study Tour to Germany in late 2017 (in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Luther's beginning of the Reformation), the morning of our first full day in Berlin we toured the Bonhoeffer-Haus, which was the spiritual highpoint for many of us. While she was not our guide I was delighted to learn that our time there overlapped with hers. Indeed, in our subsequent conversations I have been amazed at the numerous points of contact and am excited for you to meet her. In preparation for the class, I encourage you to read the book.

If you would like a copy, I will have copies for \$12.00 (contact Kris Pardue kpardue@nashvillewpc.org) or you can obtain one on your own.

The class will meet in Fellowship Hall (hybrid equipped), Sunday, September 12, 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM. We hope you will join us.

- Guy Griffith

Adult Education

Special Guest Speaker

September 12
9:45 AM

Fellowship Hall





Westminster Academy

September 15, 2021

Overlook Room • 6:30 PM

The Westminster Academy will start its fall series on September 15, in conjunction with the Earth Care Task Force, with a discussion of the film, "Chasing Coral".

The film shows the devastation that climate change is having on coral reefs worldwide. The Earth Care Task force has asked Mark Eakin, PhD, a retired coral scientist from NOAA, to help moderate the discussion. Mark is an elder at Kensington Presbyterian Church in Kensington, MD, the lead science advisor for the film and co-producer.

Please view the film before attending. It's available free on YouTube, "Chasing Coral".



Adult Education
Guy D. Griffith, Associate Pastor of Spiritual Nurture



Adult Study Classes

We Have A Time And A Study for Everyone

We will be offering a wide variety of Disciple classes this fall

Disciple I

The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

Disciple II

This study proclaims the transforming power of Scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the Scripture. The importance of keeping Bible study related to witness is reinforced while participants are encouraged to practice spiritual disciplines arising out of Scripture for the purpose of changing habits and transforming lives. The study also emphasizes the rhythm of coming to God and going for God, of being in the Word and in the world individually and corporately.

Disciple III

We will not be offering a DIII class this fall.

Disciple IV

The study concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, Revelation. Emphasis on the Psalms as Israel's hymnbook and prayer book leads naturally to an emphasis on worship in the study.

Plan on attending the fall Adult Education Kick off meeting on August 22 to learn more about our opportunities and to sign up for a class.



Koinonia Youth Ministry

Margie Quinn, Director of Youth & Young Families

Theologian and Episcopal Priest Barbara Brown Taylor often writes about embodied ministry. In one of her books, she notes that Jesus didn't say "Think this in remembrance of me" at the last supper but instead said "Do this in remembrance of me." These days, it's hard to think. There is so much stimulation and information coming our way. How could we possibly have time to mentally process where Christ has been this past year? I can hardly get through a book, let alone an article or essay; which is why our youth service weeks were so special.

Because of the pandemic, we had to switch gears as a youth ministry and plan an "at home service-trip"

for our junior and senior high students right here in Music City. We picked out places that inspire us: Thistle Farms, Room In The Inn, Open Table, and more. Each day, we piled on the church bus and drove around town visiting these bastions of faith and justice. As we volunteered each day, I saw how there was very little thinking and a lot of doing. We harvested strawberries, pulled debris out of creeks, sorted toiletries, and boxed up food. In short, we spent a week learning to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Every day I would come home and collapse into bed. Trying to be like Jesus is so dang tiring. The



Katie Gossage, T.J. Piccolo, Kat Folk, Zoe Green and Alex Long pose outside Thistle Farms.



Dax Martin proudly displays one of the many bags assembled for Strick's Gift.



Stewart Hall is ready to serve the homemade Caprese salad prepared from the gardens of Sounding Stone Farm.

man walked everywhere. He rowed boats and cooked fish. He walked on water and washed feet. No wonder he took a nap on a boat in the midst of a storm! Ministry is taxing.

This is the result of doing life in remembrance of him, not just thinking about him. We used our bodies to emulate a God who came to us, embodied. That work is not easy, but it is gospel.

I got to witness our youth performing labors of love, knowing that they wouldn't always see the fruits of that labor. We put baby clothes in bags with Lena from Strick's Gift. These bags go to newborn babies in need at different hospitals around Nashville. Lena told us that since the inception of Strick's Gift, she has only met one recipient of her labor. Imagine the faith it takes to give our time and energy without seeing the outcome.

Jesus also understood this. He spent three decades preaching and healing while some denied him, ignored him or betrayed him. He ascended before he saw the outcome of his good works. Yet, he did it anyway. He loved anyway.



Alex Long and Caroline Keiper show the fruits of their labor at Sounding Stone Farm.

Our hope during these service weeks was to remind our youth that it is in the doing that we remember Christ. Sure, it is important to think and talk about God's word on Sundays or in small groups, but it is also our responsibility to step into his shoes and follow after him to the places he went: places in need.

I want to leave you with a quote by the mystic Teresa of Avila. I read this to our youth each morning before we hopped on the bus:

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

— Teresa of Avila

Be well,
Margie

Photography submitted by Margie Quinn.

OUTDOOR CHALLENGE





The outdoor challenge trip has been a great experience both when we were little, and then this year, when we had the opportunity to go back as counselors.

Even though it rained both times while we were camping, that was never what we came out of the trip talking about.

We would talk about how great of an adventure it was to try something new, that might be a challenge to some, and easy to others every day.

Getting to go back as a counselor, it was so interesting to see the kids trying new things, and going through the struggle of whether something was worth doing for yourself, or for the idea that you could be a part of the group that was all facing their fears together.

So overall, it's a wonderful trip, and I was very grateful to participate as a counselor and a camper.

- Nora Wheliss



I would say it was great to see the kids get closer together throughout the week through God and all the activities. For some of the activities, I was surprised a younger me actually completed them.

- Bennett Spencer



This trip is my favorite, as many have heard me say. The concrete lessons fit well with our faith.

Sometimes we are in a boat with someone who is NOT doing what we want or how we want it done.

We have to figure it out, to get down the river together, and when we get stuck on a rock, we can yell at each other, or work together to get off the rock.

I watch children every year figure it out, apologize when needed, laugh a lot and get down the river all together!! This year, our group played well, tried new things, and cheered each other on.

When life is hard, and sometimes it just is hard, I want our children to know their faith community is cheering them on with so much love!! I trust they know that.

- Sophie Maness

Children's Ministry
Sophie Maness, Exec. Director of Family Ministries



We are excited to begin our milestone program.

Milestones in Children's Ministry '21-22

Just as stones were used in ancient times by the side of a road showing the distance in miles to a given place, we are using milestones to mark a child's learning and growing in the Christian faith.

We want to give both children and parents concrete tools as they grow and learn together in their faith journey.

All of these workshops will be done with children and parents.

Third Grade Bibles
& Journey through the Bible
Sunday, September 12, 2021 during Sunday School

First Grade Instructed Communion
Sunday, October 3, 2021 during Sunday School

Second Grade Prayer Workshop
Sunday November 7, 2021 during Sunday School

Fourth Grade Mission Workshop
Sunday, March 6

Kindergarten Worship Workshop
Sunday, April 3, 2022 during Sunday School





September 12, 2021

Third Grade Bible Presentation

8:30 AM • Sanctuary

Join us for a very special service where we present our third graders with their very own Bible.

Followed by *Journey Through the Bible*. A Sunday School class in which each child takes a journey through their new Bible, with their parents, and explores all God has to teach us.

For more information, please contact Sophie Maness.



STARTING SEPTEMBER 8

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT DINNERS

FELLOWSHIP HALL

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION
IN OUR WEEKLY E-BLASTS.

Music Ministry
John Semington, Director of Music Ministries



Beginning August 29, 2021
A New Season for Children's and Youth Choirs
AND Younger Children's Choirs

We will be rebuilding our choir program this year and we need all the children of Westminster to be involved.

Parents, plan now to have your children join us on August 29 to see, hear, and experience a new season of music.

All rehearsals will take place in the 2nd floor Music Suite.
Enter at the Mayfair entrance.

Sunday afternoons • 4:00 — 4:50 PM

ALLELUIA CHOIR (Kindergarten)
with the outstanding educator Susan Ramsay

GLORIA CHOIR (1st-3rd grades)
with the charming Ally Hard

JUBILATE CHOIR (4th-6th grades) with the Grand Dame of
Children's Choirs Roberta Rodgers

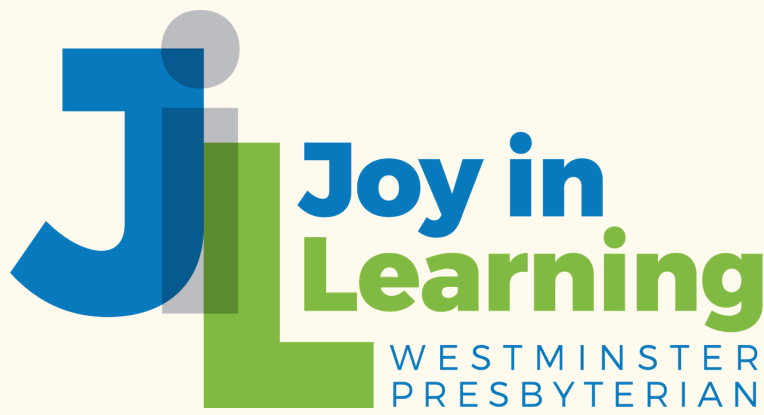
TINTINNABULATION (Handbells for 7th-12th grades)
with Handbell Man Keith Cole

5:00 PM — 6:00 PM

CHIMING CHILDREN (4th-6th grades)
with our beloved Sally Mae Arnn

LAUDATE YOUTH CHOIR (7th-12th grades)
with Maestro John Semington

For More Information, please contact
[Sally Mae Arnn](#) or [John Semington](#).



Welcome back!

Check out our new website at westminsterjoy.org to view the variety of activities coming this fall.

Registration dates are listed on the website.

You can also email beth@westminsterjoy.org or by calling the church office at 615-292-5526.

Where there is something for everyone!
It's a great place to renew friendships and make new ones!

Are you looking to share an interest with others or are you more interested in learning or practicing a joy? The choice may be easier or more difficult to make when you see our fall opportunities!

Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

Classes and Activities

Tuesday mornings (9:30-11:30)

Basketweaving | Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Oil Painting | Sept. 14, 21, 28, & Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Tuesday afternoons (3:30-5:00)

K-4th Graders | Sept. 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Chess | Sept. 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Acrylic Painting | Sept. 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Punch Needle, Weaving & Sewing | Sept. 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesday afternoons

Puzzle Gathering | When WPC Wed. Dinners are scheduled from 4:30-5:45

Guitar | Sept. 15, 22, 29 & Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 from 4:30-5:45

Thursday mornings (10:00-Noon)

Telling Your Story (new writers) | Sept. 16, 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

Pottery | Thurs. & Fri. 3 week (6 days) session Sept. 16-Oct. 1 and Oct. 14-29

Friday mornings (10:00-Noon)

Telling Your Story (experienced) | Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Weekends

Fused Glass | (choose one 2-hour class)

Plates or Bowls: Oct. 23 from 9:30-11:30, 1:00-3:00 and Oct. 24 from 1:00-3:00

Christmas Ornaments: Nov. 6 from 9:30-11:30, 1:00-3:00 and Nov. 7 from 1:00-3:00

Kitchen Class | Saturday, Oct. 9 from 10:00-1:00

Share Your Interest

Sew With Others

Sew blankets and burp cloths for Strick's Gift | Sept. 23 & 24 from 9:30-1:30

Cook/Bake 4 Others

Baking Items | Tuesdays, Sept. 21, 28 & Oct. 5 from 1:30-4:00

Prepare dinner for Preston Taylor | Tuesdays, Sept. 14 & Oct. 12 from 2:30-5:00

Refugee Neighbors

Interested in working alongside our refugee friends?

Opportunities to work with children and older adults will be scheduled soon!

Knit and Crochet

Every Thursday from 10:00-12:00 pm year-round

Always Needed!

Snack providers, supply organizers, hallway display needs, door greeters and drivers.

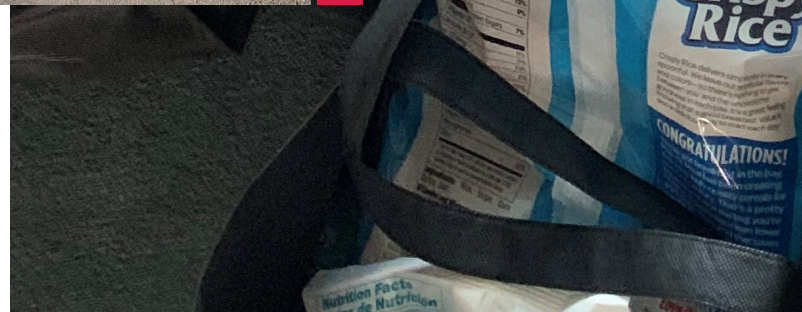
Nearby Metro Public Schools Partner with Westminster

By: Jackie Shrago

This summer, we partnered with Belle Meade Methodist Church who had already planned a food delivery program with the nearby HG Hill Middle School. This program has engaged many Westminster folks in unpacking food and organizing bags of groceries and then delivering them to a cluster of food-insecure families who live 10 minutes from Westminster in the Rolling Hills Apartments.



Photos submitted by Donovan Drake.





Neighbors 10 minutes from Westminster

Hillwood High School requested a church that would partner with their faculty and administration. Our focus is to move beyond in-kind donations to *create relationships* for a lasting impact through Student Achievement, Staff Engagement, Family Engagement, and In-Kind Contributions.



We have also participated in Saturday learning/tutoring/fun activities to help with areas where students were challenged in an all-school-year-virtual experience and begun a planning process with our United4Hope Leadership Team: Jennifer Anderson, Ann Schulze, Beth Drake, June Fortson, Kelly Christie, Rebecca Spencer, and Jackie Shrago.

Plans for the fall include:

Furnishing and volunteer staffing a Community Room: emergency food supplies, diapers, but also partnering with families for various needs, including some pro-bono legal assistance, health insurance, technology support, college readiness activities with students and parents—including completing college applications, requesting financial aid. This is a beginning and can grow as we all learn together how to partner with a new set of neighbors.

Regular weekly tutoring with students identified by teachers.

Encouraging teachers who have made it through a very tough COVID year, helping them feel supported by their community for the 2021-22 school year.

Possibly using some of our Joy in Learning activities with families, especially with parents whose English is limited.



Photos submitted by Jackie Shrago



Continuing A Relationship with Cockrill Elementary

Westminster has had a supportive relationship with Cockrill Elementary for many years. In prior years, several of our members tutored youngsters. Westminster folks will continue their involvement in the following areas:

- Reading Partners meet weekly with students to encourage and support reading (expected start date: September).
- Assisting teachers by proctoring classes during school TCAP testing.
- We also provide important in-kind donations and plan to continue that in 2021-22 with Jennifer Anderson coordinating our efforts.

We will be collecting standard school attire throughout the school year which includes:

New or gently worn standard school attire:

- Girl and Boy sizes 4-16
 - Any solid color collared shirt
 - Navy, khaki or black solid shorts
 - Long pants, skirts or jumpers
 - Underwear and coats

The bins for these will be in the closet behind the welcome desk, on the Mayfair side, at WPC.



Cockrill Elementary

4701 Indiana Ave, Nashville, TN 37209



MATTHEW 25

The Food Bank At Nueva Vida Church

On May 29, seven of us from Westminster volunteered at the food bank at the Iglesias Presbiteriana Nueva Vida-the New Life Presbyterian Church—the church that shares space with the Glencliff Presbyterian Church. I want to tell you about the Food Bank before I tell you about our day.

The food bank is part of the Matthew 25 Food Program of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. It began in early 2021 and partners with the Nourish Food Bank and the Kharis Foundation, as well as Nueva Vida and Glencliff. Food is provided through the USDA commodity program. Non-edible grocery items like diapers, hygiene products, and baby food are provided by donations and are not always available. The food bank reaches out to families and individuals who are having financial or food insecurity problems. Food is distributed on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons.

Now that you know a little about the food bank, I'll tell you about our day. The food bank is housed in

the white addition at the back of the church. We registered with the volunteer coordinator, were given a tour, and learned what our jobs would be. Three of us worked in the room with refrigerators and freezers for meat, poultry, dairy, juice, anything that needs to be kept cold/frozen. Three more were in another room with shelves of canned foods and pantry staples like flour, corn meal, and sugar (also in that room is toilet paper and other non-food items if any have been donated). Three grocery carts are in the hall. After an application is completed, a cart is given a number and the two/three volunteers for each room are given a clipboard with a list of everything needed to complete the order. Items go in boxes, to the cart, to the hallway to meet up with items from the cold food room. Another volunteer helps the family get the groceries to their car.

The food bank was not as busy as usual. In our down time, we checked use-by dates on containers



Ellen O'Farrell and Linda Koon learn more about how prepare food boxes to hand out to the community.

and regrouped items, so they were easier to find. New supplies come in on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the food bank organization is amazing.

At the end of the day, we talked a bit about how our day went. We all agreed that the food bank will help many families and individuals, and we appreciate that Westminster has another way to be part of Matthew 25. This is an opportunity to help feed our neighbors...to do some good.

Westminster has agreed to provide volunteers every third Saturday from 11:30 AM until 3:30 PM. You can get information on how to sign up from [Bob Sewell](#) or by calling him at 615-351-1199. Volunteering was a great experience; one I plan to repeat soon.

Ellen O'Farrell
Hands on Mission Committee



Bob Sewell and Hugh Harvey learn more about the process at Nueva Vida Church.

Photography submitted by Ellen O'Farrell.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

October 18, 2021

Gaylord Springs Golf Links

INVITEES: ALL WESTMINSTER GOLFERS OF ALL ABILITIES!

FORMAT: FOURSOME SCRAMBLE TEAMS

TIME/DATE: Monday afternoon, October 18, 2021

Location: Opryland's Springhouse Golf Club

Entry Fee: \$100 per player

Golf Committee will assure everyone a place on a team, so no need to worry about whether you have a group or not.

We need to assure that we will have at least 100 players, so please notify us of your non-binding intention to play ASAP: [Roger Maness](#) (your name, e-mail and phone number). Entry instructions will follow this summer.

The (secret) Presbytery Handicap Committee will assure that EVERYONE (regardless of ability) will have an opportunity to play, have fun and compete.



SAVE THE DATE AND GET YOUR FOURSOME TOGETHER!



H.O.S.T. Groups: Hearts Open to Sharing Together!

HOST groups are small groups of 12-20 men and women that meet monthly 8-10 times a year. Some groups are inter-generational, some are similarly aged.

These small groups experience fellowship around dinner followed by engaging faith reflection and discussion. These gatherings are designed to be casual, and are hosted in homes.

New HOST groups are being created for fall 2021, so please let us know if you would like join one, or have questions. Everyone is invited!

Contact:

Deb Hudson, debhudson5543@gmail.com; 615-594-8994

Beth Moore, bmoore@srvhlaw.com; 615-210-5841



2021 CONFERENCE
CREATION CARE BUFFET: COME TO THE TABLE
SUNDAYS AUGUST 1, 8 & 15

ZOOM SESSIONS

Session 1: 4:30-6pm EDT;
Dinner Break with special presentations
Session 2: 7-9pm EDT

WORKSHOPS

Worship, Climate Change, Youth, Food Waste, Soil Sisters, Mining Legacies, Spanish, & MORE

MUSIC

Folk, New Hymns, Jazz and SPECIAL APPEARANCE
DAVID LAMOTTE IN LIVE CONCERT!!

BIBLE STUDY

Drs. Douglas Moo, Wheaton College
Dr. Jonathon Moo, Whitworth University

WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes
Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson
Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo

FOLLOW-ON ACTIVISM

INITIATIVES IN CONGREGATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND GLOBALLY

PEC2021CONF@GMAIL.COM