



# COMMUNITY

The quarterly newsletter for Westminster Presbyterian Church

October 2021 | Volume 45, Issue 5







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Sandra Plant, church member



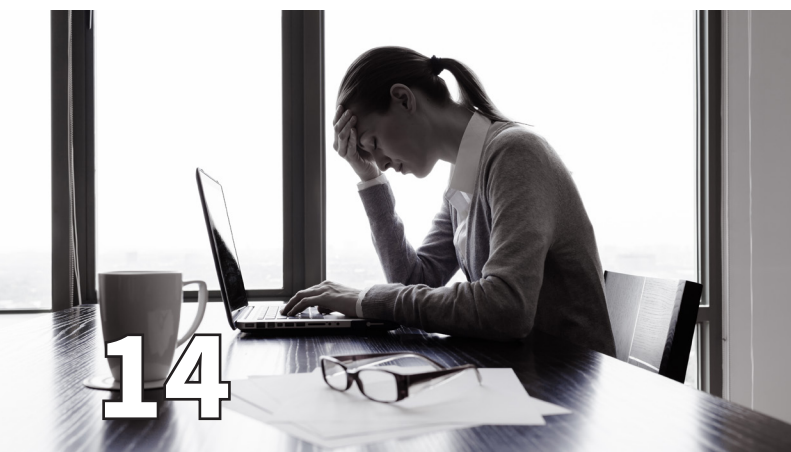
## Newsletter Deadline

January  
Deadline December 3

Do you have a story idea or experience you would like to share?  
Talk to a pastor, or Kris Pardue, [kpardue@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:kpardue@nashvillewpc.org).

### Front Cover:

Habitat Build 2021  
Submitted by Kelly Christie





# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Nashville, TN 37205  
615.292.5526

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## SESSION

*Class of 2022*  
Paul DeWitt  
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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## Youth Ministry Waffle Breakfast

**October 3**  
**9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
**North Parking Lot**

**Come enjoy some  
delicious waffles from  
a local food truck and  
support the Youth  
of Westminster!**

**All proceeds go to  
funding scholarships for  
youth trips.**

**The Westminster Youth  
Council will be collecting  
children's diapers for  
the Nashville Diaper  
Connection, as part  
of our "Diapers for  
Donovan" drive.**





As I write this, I am surrounded by diapers. It was someone in the Youth Department who came up with the idea to have a “Diapers for Donovan” drive. The image of me stumbling around my office deep in boxes of diapers is designed to be the motivator for all of you to make it happen. It seems to be working. I was even motivated by “liking” a Facebook post from the church about the drive. The unintended consequences of that action is that, now, all the advertising on my Facebook feed has converted to trying to sell me adult diapers- thank you Facebook algorithms.

Anyway, it is interesting what motivates us to do ministry. The recent floods in Tennessee have seen a huge outpouring of support from our congregation in money and hands on support. Why? Is it the location? Is it the dramatic flood scenes? Is it because many of us were touched by the flooding in 2010? Sacrificial-giving is amazing to see. What is your motivation for doing ministry?

Recently, I called a friend and colleague in ministry who picked up the phone with the words, “Eleven years, eight months, fourteen days.” I realized immediately that he knew the reasons for my call. We were connecting on how it was to be pastors in these days of Covid. My friend said, “You know, when I took my ordination vows, there was nothing in them that said ‘Will you seek to make angry and divide the congregation?’” It wasn’t a motivator in ministry. My colleague’s motivation was once to serve the Lord with “intelligence, imagination, and love”. Now, the great motivator is to survive until retirement. Covid will knock the wind out of your sails. My prayer - for all who are running on fumes during this exhausting pandemic - is that the Spirit becomes the motivator for ministry.

While the pandemic drags on, time moves on quickly. In no time at all it will be Christmas, and the scriptures will remind us again of one who was motivated into ministry because he sought to love and be loved. Oddly, such a motivation gets him killed, but “great is the mystery of faith,” for the motivation of God is not to retaliate, pull up stakes and go home, but to let love, mercy, and grace win. Love, mercy, and grace is always the motivation for ministry.

As I write this, I’m surrounded by diapers, baby diapers. You too, for unto us a child is born. The baby needs us. Love, mercy and grace will be your response.

Donovan Drake, Pastor





# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN FIRST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING 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: Gaylord Springs Golf Links**

**Entry Fee: \$100 per player**

**Contact Roger Maness, [roger.maness@comcast.net](mailto:roger.maness@comcast.net), to register.**



**HAVE YOU GOT YOUR FOURSOME TOGETHER?**



# Novel by Bill Bivins is Imaginative Product of Pandemic Isolation

by Sandra Plant

Bill Bivins didn't waste any time during the pandemic isolation of 2020. No way! This perky 90-year old said, "Well, I didn't have anything else to do, so I wrote a book." Those who remember Bill from his years as a member of Westminster and resident of Park Manor will not be surprised.

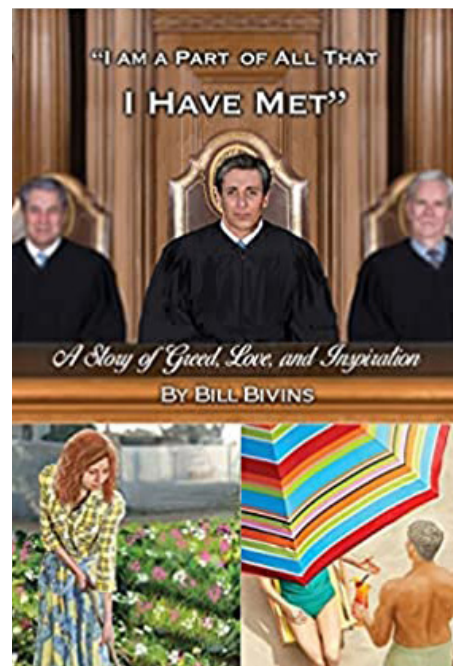
Bill's novel, *I Am a Part of All That I Have Met: a story of greed, love and inspiration*, is available on Amazon and in area bookstores. Bill drew on his 25 years as a practicing attorney plus his tenure as judge on the New Mexico Court of Appeals to write of a fictional judge whose life, according to the author, "is tolerable until it becomes horrible."

A native of Nashville, Bill is a graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy where he credits "a wonderful English teacher" with inspiring his love of reading and writing. Arriving at Davidson College for his undergraduate degree, Bill describes entering his freshman English class to find famed poet Robert Frost engaged in conversation with the professor, a longtime friend.

Bill's law degree was earned at Vanderbilt University.

Bill said he has another book he wants to write but points out to aspiring writers that "writing is hard work." He says he wrote for four hours each day in the senior residence where he now lives near his daughter in Gilbert, Arizona.

Bill was a member of the first creative writing workshop offered at Westminster some five years ago where he sat by the late Bob Ikard. The two challenged each other every session with delightful stories of their early years. When Bill, a lawyer, wrote of a harrowing experience as a Bible salesman in rural Tennessee, Bob, a retired medical doctor, would entertain the class with a tale of his days as a "soda jerk" in the drug store on the town square in Columbia, Tennessee. Their informal histories brought joy to their friends and family. Now, we have Bill Bivins' novel, a fictional tale that is both suspenseful and engaging. Readers will surely look forward to Bill's next book even if "writing is hard work."



Photos submitted by Sandra Plant.

Top: Cover of Bill's book. Available on Amazon.

Bottom: Bill with his daughter, Allie, and grandchildren, Nicholas and Olivia.

Left: Bill with his granddaughter, Olivia.



# BILL BIVINS

Father

Grandfather

Lawyer

Judge

*and now*

**Author**







## Breathing With Every Stitch

by Beth Drake

“Don’t tense your shoulders” rings through my ears as I take a deep breath and relax. Jane Ramsay quietly gave me this sound advice many years ago in our knitting and crocheting group. Actually, we now call it a ministry and not just a group. More on that to come! Over the years of meeting in the parlor with yarn and cookie in hand, ladies from all walks of life discussed the day's happenings.

It reminds many of the old-fashioned quilting bees that used to meet in church basements. Questions such as: What was the worst job you had when you were trying to make ends meet? Have you watched *All Creatures Great and Small*? — after this one you could hear various opinions on the old and new versions.

It was quite an adjustment at first

when we decided to go on Zoom in June of 2020. We had met twice a month before the pandemic, but now, we decided that we needed to meet every week for two hours. So we did and still do. From a circle of women talking to the person on the left and right and then across the table, then moving chairs to talk to someone else....you get the picture— to listening to one person at a time on Zoom has



been interesting to say the least.

This became a familiar comment, “Speak while you show us your (item), so we can see it!”

We have learned Zoom lingo and have adapted. Knitters and crocheters who are homebound, working from home, and outside Nashville area who previously would not have been able to join us in church, have pressed the link.

I must say, these amazing women have looked after each other and have created items for service in the past, but this pandemic has taken the ministry on steroids. Even 95 year old Rita Hood, who taught me crocheting in 2013 at Westminster, joins us by Zoom and after giving up on crocheting, decided she could feel the holes and continue. She is such an inspiration to us all!

In addition to service items, we have fun also creating individual projects for ourselves, friends and family. Our projects for this fall and winter will include:

1. Dish cloths and scrubbies for the families we work with through Westminster Home Connection and Living Waters for the World.
2. Baby blankets, booties and hats for Strick’s Gift.
3. Multi-colored hats and scarves for Room In The Inn (men and women).

If you are reading this and would like to be included in this wonderful ministry, go to [westminsterjoy.org](http://westminsterjoy.org) or email me, Beth Drake at [beth@westminsterjoy.org](mailto:beth@westminsterjoy.org).

We would be happy to place you on our email list.



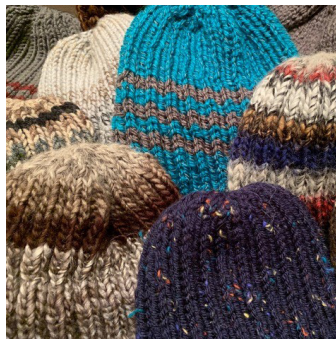
### **Congregational Care Seniors**

Dish towels were made and packaged with love for our Congregation Care Ministry to distribute to our seniors.



### **Blankets for Veterans**

The knitting team made blankets specifically for our veterans in our country's patriotic colors.



### **Room In The Inn**

With the cold weather approaching, hats are always needed for the people at Room In The Inn.

Other projects include:

- Hats for baptism babies
- Baby blankets for Strick’s Gift
- Collected bright colored yarn and knitting needles for our refugee elder friends.



### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC –**

Acknowledging Our Creator, Congregational Gathering and Giving Thanks -17% of proposed budget. We share the Eucharist, baptize new Christians and celebrate the saints. We hear the Word proclaimed and respond to God's call. Music sets the tone in worship and enriches our congregation. Melody and harmony bring us together in deeply meaningful ways. Worship expenses include staff leadership, communion and worship supplies liturgical supplies; Music expenses include choir leaders, guest musicians, supplies and new music elements.



### **MISSION GIVING –**

Helping Others in Need - 15% of the proposed budget. We assist those in need with countless contributions and volunteer hours. We do this by supporting Room In The Inn, Westminster Home Connection, Joy in Learning, Habitat for Humanity and numerous other ministries.



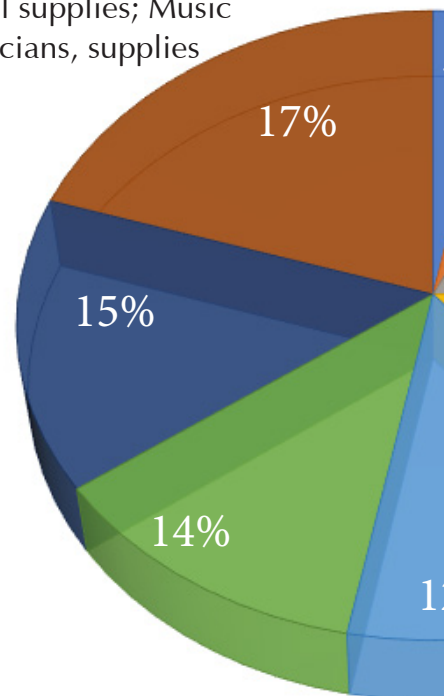
### **YOUTH AND CHILDREN –**

Engaging in the Life of the Church – 14% of the proposed budget. We share the gospel with youth and children in an engaging space where they are welcomed and valued with unconditional love, outdoor worship services, and children's bulletin with scripture and drawing opportunities. Expenses include staff, trips and a variety of programs.



### **EDUCATION –**

Offering Educational Opportunities for Every Age – 12% of the proposed budget. Though much of the teaching work is volunteer-driven, leaders are needed for children, youth and adults during Sunday school and throughout the week. Expenses include curriculum, support staff, outside speakers and nursery workers.





## **CHURCH BUILDING –**

Where We Do All These Things – 15% of the proposed budget. It is where we worship, teach and have fellowship with one another. It is in this space that we connect by sponsoring dozens of enriching community activities. Our building is heavily used seven days a week. Expenses include security expenses, utilities and insurance.



## **COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION -**

Helping the Whole Church Come Together - 20% of the proposed budget. In our fast-paced world, communication is more important than ever. Technology facilitates our connection to the church and to each other. Expenses include the community newsletter, weekly communications, website, internet, cameras, printing equipment and stewardship costs.



## **PASTORAL CARE AND NURTURE –**

Expressing the Love and Peace of the Church – 4% of the proposed budget. We care for one another every day, particularly in illness, need, grief, post-surgery, residential transitions or another crisis. Expenses include staff leadership who provide spiritual counseling and support for our congregational care teams.



## **FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH –**

Strengthening our Community and Celebrating God's Love – 3% of the proposed budget. This is seen in all areas of the church – worship, small group studies, congregational gatherings, HOST groups, and community events. Expenses include staff leadership, connection and small group materials.





*"Having the ability to 'Zoom' into church was a real innovation and a great comfort."*

*- Hartley & Carolyn Hall*

## A LIVE Streaming Legacy

When COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, it sent us all home for lockdown unprepared, both in terms of our toilet-paper logistics and our emotional stamina. Can you imagine what isolation would have looked and felt like without the benefits of the Internet and the new “Zoom” technology we were all about to master?

Being able to log onto a computer and video chat with family, friends, and work colleagues, and then book groups, Bible studies and church has been a blessing of our age to which no previous similar national emergency has had access. It kept us in touch, it kept many of us in our jobs,

we went to virtual doctors and therapist appointments and even did physical therapy via remote video chat.

Pretty quickly, we started to notice that some folks got the hang of this new world better than others. The work colleague with the fancy (and ever-changing) back drop and the friend with the crystal-clear camera or the excellent lighting for skin tone began to stand out. We all started trading tips and ordering webcam gear from Amazon.

Carolyn and I started taking note of the differences in

the broadcast quality of Westminster’s Sunday service and other church broadcasts. Having the ability to “Zoom” into church was a real innovation and a great comfort. Not that it hadn’t been there before - it was - but now we really needed it! And it occurred to us that going forward, the ability to live-stream church makes church so much more accessible to those who, for whatever reason, cannot attend. It’s no equal substitute, of course, to the in-person experience, but the ability to attend a funeral or a Bible study when you are out of town or recovering from an operation is a real innovation that pretty immediately has become a



responsibility of the church. Plus, it opens the message of our church to a larger, even global audience.

In addition to accessing this ourselves, Carolyn and I could see how important good quality live-stream broadcasting was, and would be going forward, to congregants who were struggling with mobility issues or other health issues that keep them at home. Additionally, we could not help but notice the frequent mishaps such as Internet breakdown or freeze, slow-down and pixilation, and the challenges that exist at the nexus of lighting, broadcast, and camera/picture quality.

We strongly believe that the flexibility provided by live-streaming is here to stay, and we believe that it is now the church's responsibility to provide it in a fashion and manner that is commensurate with Westminster's overall high standards. To this end, Carolyn and I felt called to make a donation via the Legacy Fund to upgrade Westminster's overall broadcasting capacity and quality, firm in the belief that it will be used to preach the good news and to keep people who might otherwise be unable to access our ministries more fully connected and involved. We are very pleased to make this gift to a church that we believe has a great message to share.



The Communications Department was grateful to be in consultation with the Halls. Their gift to the Legacy Fund has already been used to upgrade cameras in the Sanctuary. The soundboard that provides the audio for both inside the Sanctuary and livestream will soon be upgraded. We have also purchased and installed new cameras and microphones in three classrooms. The old cameras in the Sanctuary will move to Fellowship Hall to provide an option of streaming and/or video recording.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Legacy Fund provides for the long-term financial stability of our church through funding needs outside of the annual budget. Donations are welcome from current church members who want to invest in the mission of the church while still active, such as the Halls, and through bequests in members' wills.

If you would like more information about making a gift or including the Legacy Fund in your estate planning, you can visit our website, [nashvillewpc.church](http://nashvillewpc.church), and look under the Giving tab for the Legacy Fund and our Frequently Asked Questions; or you can contact members of our staff:

Donovan Drake, Pastor, Head of Staff,  
[ddrake@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:ddrake@nashvillewpc.org), 615-292-5526

Jo Ann McFarlin, Executive Director of Operations,  
[jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org), 615-292-5526.

-----Legacy Fund Trustees





The evolving pandemic has thrust us into roles as givers and receivers of care in expanded ways within our families, church, and community. Feeling that one's reality is a 36-hour day was already common for many parents raising children, and for families impacted by chronic illness and Alzheimer's/dementia. The pandemic adds a challenge that touches us all, whatever our age and stage, or circumstance.

This four-week series will explore the uncertainty and anxiety, guilt and grief, fear and anger that can result in the midst of long-haul caregiving, as well as the spiritual evaporation and collective depression that may emerge. Sustenance through spiritual renewal and self-care, relationships and community, hope and faith will be engaged.



# Sustenance for the Long Haul:

## Caring for Our Families, Community, Ourselves

Sunday Mornings in October • 9:45 AM • Fellowship Hall

### October 10

***“The Power of Naming and Reshaping:  
The Challenges of COVID, Caregiving,  
and the 36-Hour Day”***

Presenter:

Dr. Evon Flesberg is a clinical pastoral therapist, retired professor of the Practice of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and a Lutheran (ELCA) pastor.

### October 17

***“Individual and Collective Mourning:  
From the Personal to the Global”***

Presenter:

Dr. Bruce Rogers-Vaughn is a clinical pastoral therapist, retired professor of the Practice of Pastoral Theology and Counseling at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and a Baptist pastor active with his family at Second Presbyterian.

Any questions or needs for care?  
Please contact Congregational Care Chair,  
Sylvia Leins  
[srleins@yahoo.com](mailto:srleins@yahoo.com), 615-243-9773

or Congregational Care Pastor  
Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler  
[hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org](mailto:hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org)  
615-292-5526

### October 24

***“Age and Stage Caregiving Stresses for the Long  
Haul: From Parenting Children and Youth to  
Caring for Grandchildren, Parents, and Spouses”***

Panelists:

Dr. Bill Petrie serves as professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at VUMC and directs the outpatient psychiatric clinic. Neurodegenerative illnesses - including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's - are among his specialties. Bill and wife Lori are WPC members.

Fran Linley serves as Middle School Learning Services Coordinator at Harpeth Hall School. She and husband David, and daughters Annie and Kate are members of Westminster.

Dr. David Wyckoff is a pediatrician in Nashville, and wife, Jennifer Larson, writes and publishes prolifically. They are parents of sons William and Andrew and are Westminster members.

### October 31

***“Sustenance through Spiritual Renewal, Lived  
Hope and Growth in Faith”***

Presenter:

Rev. Marjorie Thompson is a PC(USA) pastor, author, and speaker. She has served in many roles as a spiritual guide, including as adjunct faculty for several seminaries, and as Director of Congregational Spirituality at The Upper Room.





## **Habitat for Humanity Builds Back This Fall**

The future is never promised, although it often can easily feel that way when things are going according to plan. Our 29th Westminster Habitat for Humanity build was on the horizon last fall and after months of planning and preparation, your committee was ready to launch the opening weekend. But at about that same time, the COVID-19 cases surged in Tennessee. With much regret, our fall build had to be

cancelled due to the risks associated with gatherings of more than 10 people. It was heartbreaking for your Committee (Michael Renwick Chair, Michael Drake and Kelly Christie, co-chairs) to come to this decision, but the health and well-being of our members had to come first.

Not long after our fall build was cancelled, you, our amazing congregation, reached out to ask if we could help with spring construction, namely Sherwood Commons, Habitat of Greater Nashville's first townhome community. Construction of the new neighborhood began with smaller work crews that included Westminster members. You offered your



services to, not one, but two framing days to help the Habitat SOS's and professional crews in making home ownership a dream come true for candidates. You are amazing!

After two spring build weekends, the spark has been lit once again and Westminster Fall Build #29 is on track! Now more than ever, Habitat for Humanity's work is critical. For many families, those who were already struggling with a need for decent and affordable housing, their daily lives have only become more challenging. For others, those who find themselves affected by the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the future is newly uncertain. These are the families who now, more than ever, need the hand up that we can provide. Even in these times — especially in these times — we continue to work tirelessly toward our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Whereas in the past, we have worked on one individual home, this year, Habitat will put 26 new homes in the Nashville area. Sherwood Commons will be a mix of two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes, providing another type of affordable living for families who qualify. Since each townhome is attached to another home and each have a second floor, we are doing more framing and construction and less painting and installation.

Amid COVID-19 the Westminster 2021 Fall Build has meant that we must adjust some of our established practices. Our Habitat schedule has also shifted from volunteering every Saturday and Sunday for 4 weekends in August/September, to a volunteer schedule that includes being on the Habitat site for one weekend a month between August and November.

Another aspect that has changed is our meal and snack program. Whereas in the past, we were able to

***This is what happens when we believe in the way of love.***





provide buffet meals, COVID-19 precautions require all food to be individually wrapped. However, we have not skipped a beat, thanks to the generosity of Westminster. We have enjoyed an assortment of nutritional breakfast bars, raisins, and assorted fruit, individually wrapped deli sandwiches, and fried chicken, Moe's Southwestern Grill and Smoked Beef. Recently, local health officials have advised the city of Nashville that given the increased rate of COVID spread with the more contagious variants, "even fully vaccinated people need to mask up" (unvaccinated have always been advised to wear a mask). Face coverings are optional outdoors, but when working indoors where social distancing is difficult to achieve and maintain, volunteers will be asked to wear a face covering. Those who choose not to wear a face covering will be guided to work outdoors. We have updated policies for personal protective equipment (PPE) including your own hardhat, safety glasses, gloves and a face covering

that you take with you at the end of the day. Hand sanitizer is available, and your Habitat Committee have taken care of all food arrangements, water, Gatorade and snacks.

Some things about Westminster's Habitat Build have not changed. As before, you don't need to have prior construction experience to participate in the build. And let's not forget the perk of getting a Westminster Habitat Tee shirt for your participation! Just come out with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. When I first started with Habitat, I had never been able to hammer a nail correctly, was afraid to use a saw, had no construction skills or knowledge, and yet everyone welcomed me to the construction site. Now I know how to help with insulation and baseboards although, admittedly, Carson Salyer and Steve Lainhart are guiding me all the way.

One thing I have learned. As Westminster gathers together in this life-giving ministry, the turbulence of these days are binding us to each other and to our shared mission, which is more important now than ever. Together, we are better.

Thanks to you, our Westminster community, our homeowner Miss D., will have a safe and secure place to call home. In her own words, "This is a dream come true."

This is what happens when we believe in the way of love.

- Kelly Christie  
Habitat Co-Chair





October 3, 2021

## Instructed Communion

3:00 PM • Parlor Courtyard

Join us for a very special class for our first graders. This workshop offers first grade children and their parents experiences and information about the Lord's Supper, so they can participate with a richer understanding of what the sacrament means to the church and to individual Christians.

For more information, please contact [Sophie Maness](#).



# Joy in Community

**Join us for Food, Fun & Fellowship**

**October 6 & 27**

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Parlor Courtyard**

**Boxed Dinners Available.  
Make YOUR Reservations NOW!**

**[www.nashvillewpc.church](http://www.nashvillewpc.church)**