



COMMUNITY

The quarterly newsletter for Westminster Presbyterian Church

January 2022 | Volume 46, Issue 1





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Newsletter Deadline

April
Deadline March 4

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:
Waverly Team
Photo Credit: James Fritz



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SESSION

<i>Class of 2022</i>	<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>
Paul DeWitt	Hank Abbott	James Boswell
Ken Hande	Jonathan Cole	Kim Crafton
Hank Hildebrand	Beth Felch	Luke Gebhardt
Mike Kaminski	June Fortson	Ron Harris
Ellie Keiper	Susan Hassell	Moe Hill
Linda Koon	Chuck Higgins, Jr.	Deb Hudson
Catie Lee	Ned Munson	Janet Kuhn
Sylvia Leins	Kate Pennington	Leighton Liles
George Luscombe	Bill Tate	Fran Linley
Clay Parsons	Elizabeth Trabue	Denise Linn
Ann Schulze	Elaine Williams	Harriet Sewell
Grace Wagenman	Tom Wyllly	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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**Children's Choirs will resume
with a kick-off event at
4:00 PM on Sunday afternoon,
January 16, 2022.**

**Alleluia Choir (Kdg)
Led by Susan Ramsey**

**Gloria Choir (1st-3rd)
Led by Ally Hard**

**Jubilate Choir (4th-6th)
Led by Roberta Rodgers**

**Chiming Children
5:00 PM on Sundays**

**For more information, please
contact Sally Mae Arnn,
sarnn@nashvillewpc.org.**

“What then should we do?”

Luke and the Lectionary



The scriptures that are read from Sunday to Sunday are selected out of the Revised Common Lectionary. The lectionary has three-year cycles (Year A, B, C) that begin in Advent and end on Christ the King Sunday. We are currently in year C, and the Gospel reading will be primarily out of the Gospel of Luke.

Here are some things you may hear in Luke's Good News.

Joy!

The message of Luke is one of repentance. It is a repentance that doesn't dwell on what a bad person one is, but one that discovers the amazing grace and love of God. Luke's Gospel has Jesus telling the story of parties being thrown because the lost sheep, the lost coins, and the lost son are found.

How do you understand repentance? Do you encounter repentance when you realize that you've been found by God? Do you need to repent in order to be found by God? Is there joy in your answers?

Ups and Downs

Luke has his ups and downs. In other words, Jesus has caused a change in the landscape. Those who are highfliers are often humbled, and humbled are exalted. Even before her child is born, Mary sees there's a change in the scenery.

“He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.”

Luke has Zacchaeus coming down from his tree (repenting). Luke has the “good Samaritan” raising up the broken onto his animal. Jesus tells a message in Luke's Gospel that we need to do away with the hierarchies of life that separate us and see one another as children of God.

What do we like and not like about the hierarchies that we uphold? Why is humility so hard? What's the best thing about lifting someone else up?

Holy Spirit!

With God, all things are possible! If you have any doubts about your ability to do God's will, read Luke. Luke has the Spirit of the Lord being poured out on the believers. The Spirit empowers the Church to do the amazing!

When do you see the Spirit at work in the Church and in you?

All is not lost

The world can look like a pretty dark place sometimes. Jesus, in Luke, calls us to not hide in despair but to act boldly on the world stage. The Spirit is like a river that pulls us into God's promised future. We are given the power of the resurrection and that power liberates the world. The first sermon that Jesus gives came right out of the prophet Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

By the end of the sermon, the congregation had turned into a mob and was ready to throw him (down) off a cliff. Jesus miraculously makes his way through the mob. It is a clue to the Church to be bold.

When do you find it easy to act on your faith?
When is following Jesus the most difficult?
Where do you see God's Word being liberating? How might you be less calculating and more faithful?

Hope to have you join us in worship!

Peace,



Donovan Drake, Pastor



Waverly and Humphreys County TN suffered a devastating rain storm and flash flood on August 21. Tragically 20 people died, over 271 homes were destroyed and many others damaged, and two schools were damaged beyond repair. Homes that had stood for 120 years with no history of flooding were damaged; 80% of rental homes were destroyed. Serious impact to Waverly's and Humphreys County's infrastructure and economy will have long term consequence.

On Monday, August 23, just two days after the flood, men and women volunteers from Westminster Presbyterian Church arrived on site to assist victims. Teams worked on several homes on East Main Street in Waverly, helping homeowners clean out damaged belongings, as well as removing drywall and flooring. Gigantic piles soon lined both sides of the street and many other streets. This gutting of each home had to occur so that the structure of the house could dry out before restoration efforts began. To date volunteer crews from Westminster have worked in the area for a total of ten days investing almost 900 total hours in victim assistance.

Members of Westminster also have been generous in providing financial donations for the Waverly flood relief. WPC and the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee have dispersed funds to the Waverly Children's Fund and provided gift cards for grocery purchases by hungry families. We have provided interim funding (two months) to Inspiritus for employment of a volunteer work coordinator, as well as funds for fuel and materials for uses such as debris removal. (Inspiritus, a nonprofit, nondenominational disaster relief organization, coordinates volunteer work in Waverly and Humphreys County.) Funds will also be used to provide financial assistance to homeowners as restoration efforts begin. We will partner with many other organizations in this effort including The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and other faith groups, the Community Foundation, United Way and others.

- Joe Gaines





Westminster continues to send teams of volunteers each month to assist flood survivors in the Waverly/ Humphreys County Tennessee area. Our work typically consists of removing debris, cleaning, and gutting flooded homes. It's the type of work that everyone with a willing heart can do. There is much that needs to be done in the area.

Our next trip is scheduled for January 14 & 15, 2022. We leave the church at 7:30 AM each morning and are back by 5:00 PM. You can volunteer for one day or two. Contact Joe Gaines, joegaines12@gmail.com, if you need more info or would like to participate.

Following the recent tornadoes in Tennessee and Kentucky, there are many needs for help. At the current time, our best way to assist victims in these areas is to provide financial donations through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, pda.pcusa.org/.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a black charging cable with a yellow and blue plug. The hand is positioned next to the side of a white electric vehicle. In the background, a gas station with a green roof and a sign that says "STATION" is visible, though it is out of focus. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Where Is God In This Pandemic?

By Ann Harris

The low tire pressure indicator on my car dash had been lit for over a week. This was becoming an issue because in two days I was driving to Sewanee with two friends for a few days.

I had already made four trips to air machines in various locations, but the icon on the dashboard still glowed in front of me.

At Thornton's on Charlotte at River Road, I pulled up to the station's air machine. There was a hippy-looking group of men and women on a grassy area nearby. A man from this group walked over to me and asked if he could help pump the air. Knowing that he would want a tip for his help, I declined his offer with thanks. I spent the next 20 minutes trying to fill the tires to 32 psi feeding the machine with multiple payments. Another car pulled up behind me waiting for the air pump. I replaced the valve caps and left the station disgusted and not knowing the pressure status of the four tires. I headed home toward the Villa.

On the way I stopped at Kroger near White Bridge Road to try their air machine which was just like the one at Thorntons. Maybe this pump would give me clearer information. It was then I realized I had left my bank card and tire gauges back at Thorntons. Knowing a car waited to use the machine there, I thought for sure my card was now in the hands of a stranger. I began a tirade of self-stupidity as I drove as fast as traffic would allow back to Thorntons. STUPID, STUPID, STUPID! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS? Twenty minutes had passed since leaving Thorntons. Oh, Lord, somehow let my card be safe, I prayed. I just knew this was a futile plea. I mean, particularly in these crazy pandemic times, humanity was being tested and pretty much falling short, from what I watched on the nightly news daily.

I pulled into Thorntons and up to their air machines. On the concrete ledge there sat my card and two tire gauges.

The man who had offered his help was now sitting

alone on the grass nearby. He didn't speak or acknowledge my presence in any way. As I pulled away from the curb I stopped near him, lowered my window and said,

"Thank you for not taking my card. I truly appreciate it." To which he replied,

"We're not all like that. Bless you. Have a blessed day."

As I drove away from him, I thought what I should have said to him was 'Thank you for watching over my card.'"

And I realized that in the midst of my doubt and mistrust, the presence of the Holy One is alive and well.

I'm sorry, Lord. I did not respond well to your presence. Please forgive me, O God, in Your Mercy!

Addendum:

The tire pressure issue was resolved that same day by an additional series of God events. Returning to the Kroger air pump, a young man came up to me from I don't know where--I saw no car nor where he went after helping me. He said, "I was at this pump yesterday and had difficulty using it. I thought you might want some help."

This time I accepted the help offered me in kindness. Three of four tires held 32 lbs. The fourth wouldn't take air. A trip to Beaman Service Department followed. Their inspection of that tire left them perplexed. No leak. Result: the tire was returned to 32 psi. Four tires ready and roadworthy. And no repair bill! No more warning light on the dashboard. Thanks be to God!

Sewanee, here we come!

KATHERINE DIEHL

Morningside House
5330 Dorsey Hall Drive
Apartment 119
Ellicott City , MD 21042

Good Friends,

I want to thank all of you who came to visit me during my stay at the Blakeford. I appreciated the beautiful flowers which decorated my small room in Nashville.

I have left for a life in a new place near my two boys and grandchildren. I will miss all of you and would like to visit my old home, my church and all of you.

I am hoping the doctors here can help improve my difficulty with the pain throughout my body.

*Love,
Katherine*

It started out like any other Sunday when Dad had to go to work the night before. Well, not quite like - since Grandma Susie was visiting. Mom had decided that we would not go to church while dad slept.

I was the last to wake up. When I walked into the kitchen, I could tell that they had all had breakfast. "Do you want eggs?" mom asked as she washed the dishes.

"Just cereal," I replied.

The weekends were sometimes a little hard on us those weeks my dad had to work at night. Only about 12 or so times a year. We couldn't be loud in the house which was fine if I could go outside or go somewhere with my mom. My brother was nine years older, so he usually had things to do. Reading was always a good last resort.

When Grandma Susie was visiting, I looked forward to working jigsaw puzzles with her. I asked my dad once why they call them jigsaw puzzles. He said it was a special kind of saw they used to cut the curves. I hadn't thought of that.

It was chilly outside that day and Zip, my brother, was outside practicing his basketball skills. At school, they nicknamed him 'Zip' because he could zip the ball into the basket and win games for them. Grandma had started making her wonderful rolls, so they could rise in time for dinner. This was the last night Dad had to work at night. I started and finished another puzzle. Zip had come inside and stretched out on the sofa. When we sat down to enjoy the rolls, meatloaf and green beans, we had no idea what lay ahead.

Mom and Dad cleaned the table off to get ready for dessert. Zip had gone into the living room again and turned on the radio. He came back into the dining room looking like I had never seen him before.

"It's Japan!" he said, "They bombed us!" After being an ambulance driver in the first World War, Dad knew exactly what that meant. WAR!

Mother said calmly, "Come eat this peach pie." but I could see she had tears in her eyes. You see, my brother would be turning 18 in March.

- Jane Denney



Our milestone program continues.

Milestones in Children's Ministry 2022

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.

We have had milestones this fall for first and third grades. This winter our schedule is...

Second Grade Prayer Workshop **Sunday, January 9, 2022**

Our focus will be to explore all the different ways we can pray as individuals, as families and as a community. We will meet on the Wilson Wing during the Sunday School hour.

Fifth Grade Sexuality Workshop **Sunday, February 6, 2022**

We will learn the basics of puberty together and connect their bodies with their faith. Children have classes together and parents join us later in the afternoon. This will be Sunday afternoon from 3:00 – 5:30 PM.

Fourth Grade Mission Workshop **Sunday, March 6, 2022**

Our focus will be on our call to partner with others in our own community and around the world. This will be Sunday afternoon from 2:00 – 3:30 PM for fourth grade children and a parent. We will have a project to do as we talk together about mission and ministry.

Kindergarten Worship Workshop **Sunday, April 24, 2022**

Our focus in the spring will be to give our kindergarten children a warm welcome to sanctuary worship. Parents come with children to this workshop during the Sunday School hour. There will be tips for making it through worship together.



Save the Date

NaCoMe 2022

April 2 & 3





AFGHAN REFUGEES

WPC Helping To Make New Homes

We need your help ASAP to make apartments into a HOME. Ninety people have arrived (more details coming about the families) and 200 more are coming by end of January. NICE (Nashville International Center for Empowerment) works with Catholic Charities to settle new refugees in Nashville. They take responsibility for finding apartments and get adult family members a job. They also help orient the people to Nashville.

Please contribute during our DRIVE THROUGH Saturday, January 8. More info to come.

Questions? email:

Britton Nielsen bhniel@comcast.net

Cheryl Hays hays5@me.com

Jackie Shrago jshrago@comcast.net

Checks can be made to Westminster (Afghan Refugees)

List of items needed:

- Mattresses: but we will buy at wholesale at \$117-\$125 per mattress. Health codes discourage used mattresses for safety. (WE NEED any amount you can give). We will buy box springs if we have funds.
- Queen or twin sheets
- Towels – all sizes of towels
- Chairs – used: folding chairs, kitchen table & chairs, living room chairs too
- Tables – end tables, folding tables, desks (especially for students to use for homework), tables for lamps
- Lamps w/shades
- Sofas
- Kitchen/Bathroom/Other items:
 - Dishes, flatware, glasses, mugs
 - Pots, pans, cooking utensils, coffee makers
 - Oil cloth for ‘tablecloth’ (can be used on a table or floor if necessary)
 - Shower curtain w/hanging rings

Yoga Returns to Westminster!

After a two-year hiatus, yoga is returning to Westminster in January. And we are thrilled our wonderful yoga instructor Claire Coenen (pronounced “Coonan”) is returning to lead our classes. “I am so excited to start teaching yoga at WPC again,” Claire said. “For me, yoga is about cultivating connection--connecting mind, body, & spirit, connecting breath to movement, and connecting with the sacred. I love sharing this life-giving practice and am grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with the wonderful community at Westminster.”

These are gentle yoga classes, but you can add your own poses to increase your workout. Or if you are a beginner, you can work your way up to a downward dog at your own pace! Yoga improves flexibility, strength, posture, and balance while reducing stress and improving mental health.

Sallie Bailey remembers, “As beginners, John and I attended yoga class at WPC with Claire Coenen several years ago. She has the ability to take a class of varying skills and challenge each person

just enough to see improvement over time. We are excited to see that Claire is returning to teach yoga at WPC!”

Other couples attend the class together, including Suzanne and Terry Allen. Terry says: “Contrary to my initial opinion, yoga is an activity as important to men as to women.” Babs Behar adds: “I had some frequent back and hip pain before I started yoga and the stretches and movements resolved them. But as much as I appreciate the physical benefits, our church yoga class is also a very special fellowship.”

Bring your yoga mat and join our group starting January 11th!

WHAT: Yoga Class

WHERE: Overlook Room

WHEN: Tuesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM
starting January 11, 2022

COST: \$10 per session

NOTE: All participants must be fully vaccinated.

For more information, please contact Susan Hassell at shassell@outlook.com.





Monkey Business

It was still very much summer in Columbia, South Carolina. The calendar had crossed over into September. Never mind the hot, sultry days, we went back to our un-air-conditioned school right after the Labor Day holiday. It was 1968, and, on September 9th, I would celebrate my tenth birthday. On September 4th, my mother received word that her father had passed away. She flew to Iowa City for his funeral, but because it was the first week of school, my two older brothers and I stayed at home with our daddy.

While Mama was away, many of her friends dropped by the house to bring us food. Daddy was a great cook, but it was a loving custom for ladies to bring comfort food to help make things easier at home. One afternoon, the front doorbell rang. I ran and beat my father there. I opened the door, but Daddy quickly nudged in beside me to ensure I was not opening the door to strangers. At the door stood a lady dressed very properly. I

recognized her as Mrs. Naylor. Her daughter and I took piano lessons from the same teacher. Mrs. Naylor could hardly speak she was laughing so hard. After a few tries and sputters, with tears streaming down her cheeks, she managed to blurt out, “your dog chased a monkey into my car!!” She clearly knew how absurd and comical the situation was.

“A monkey in your car?” questioned Daddy in amazement.

"Your dog chased a monkey into my car!!!"

“Is there a zoo in this neighborhood?” asked Mrs. Naylor, still laughing.

“Oh, that’s Frank.” I said nonchalantly.

Daddy looked at me quizzically, as did Mrs. Naylor. They spoke in unison, “Frank?”

“Yes, that’s Frank the Monkey,” I announced. “He lives down the street with James, a boy in my

class, and James' two younger sisters. Frank and the children sleep in the attic. Sometimes Frank escapes out the window and hides in our trees."

About that time, my dog Scooter sauntered up, looking quite pleased with herself. You see, Scooter, a black cocker spaniel mix with a white blaze down her chest, was well known in our neighborhood as a determined car chaser.

When Daddy shared this story with the ladies who brought food by later that weekend, they murmured to themselves in disbelief, "Oh, poor Fred! He has lost it taking care of those three children!" At least, that is what they told my mother after she returned home.

Whenever, I need a good laugh, I just think back to that hot September day. I imagine poor Mrs. Naylor innocently driving down Briarwood Road with all the car windows down, without a care in the world. When suddenly, Scooter comes out of nowhere to chase her car. Somehow Frank the Monkey gets caught in the commotion, jumps in her car's back window to escape Scooter, and hops up to the front seat beside Mrs. Naylor. I imagine her screams as she slams on the brakes, her heart pounding, the shock of seeing a monkey in her passenger seat. I bet she even wet her pants. I remember her laughter, trying to spit out the words to explain what happened. Yes, I can hardly keep from chuckling deep inside, even now.

- Lisa Atkinson



We hope you will join us.

Covenant Class

January 9, 16, 23
Fellowship Hall



A Dialogue Between Two Christian Literary-Theologians: Emily Dickinson and Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.

A special discussion led by Victor Judge.

During the nineteenth-century, in America and in England, two individuals courageously enter into bold relationships with the English language and conduct grammatical experiments in verse—experiments that would reveal to them a sphere uncharted by the cartographers, a sphere which the speaker of Emily Dickinson's "Poem 466" names the "house of possibility."

Dickinson and her contemporary, the Jesuit priest-poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, navigate the liminal space between the conventional societal and religious expectations and the selfhood of the poet, and they cross the threshold into a realm quite foreign to 19th-century aesthetics; they become the surveyors of a sphere that would not be named until the 20th century, a sphere we call modernism. These poets, who are not writing for publication become precursors, heralds of modernism, and they will assume, posthumously, their places in the canon of belles lettres. Our objective for this class is to bring Dickinson and Hopkins into a series of aesthetic and theological dialogues on the universal questions that transcend chronology and geography.

Looking Toward Lent

As we open the door to the New Year, the Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture team is working to plan an outstanding set of Sunday School speakers to help us on our Journey to the Cross during Lent.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd and the first Sunday of Lent, March 6th, we'll have our Annual Meeting, so no Sunday school. However, we are very pleased with the classes to follow that can deepen our experience of Lent.



On March 13th and 20th, we welcome back Kem Hinton, FAIA. Kem is an architect, urban designer, author, historian, graphic designer, photographer, lecturer, LEED accredited professional, and visual artist. He received his professional education from the University of Tennessee, University of

Pennsylvania, and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. In 2019, he received the AIA Tennessee William Strickland Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2021, he was appointed to the Tennessee Historical Commission. Founding partner of Tuck-Hinton Architects, 1984-2019, he now practices in the studio of Kem Hinton Design. Kem is an active member of Belle Meade Methodist where he brings his interest in the Bible, history, and architecture to his Sunday School teaching. His first class will take us on an architectural journey that spans 3,000 years to discover “The Temple Mount in Jerusalem: The Most Sacred Place on Earth.” The second week will explore the question, “Where did they bury my Lord?” In this presentation, Kem will look at the debates about where Jesus was crucified and afterwards, where was he buried?

In this presentation, the theories of the Tomb of Jesus will be explored, including recent archaeological discoveries that support an answer to this fascinating and often contentious “mystery



of the ages.”

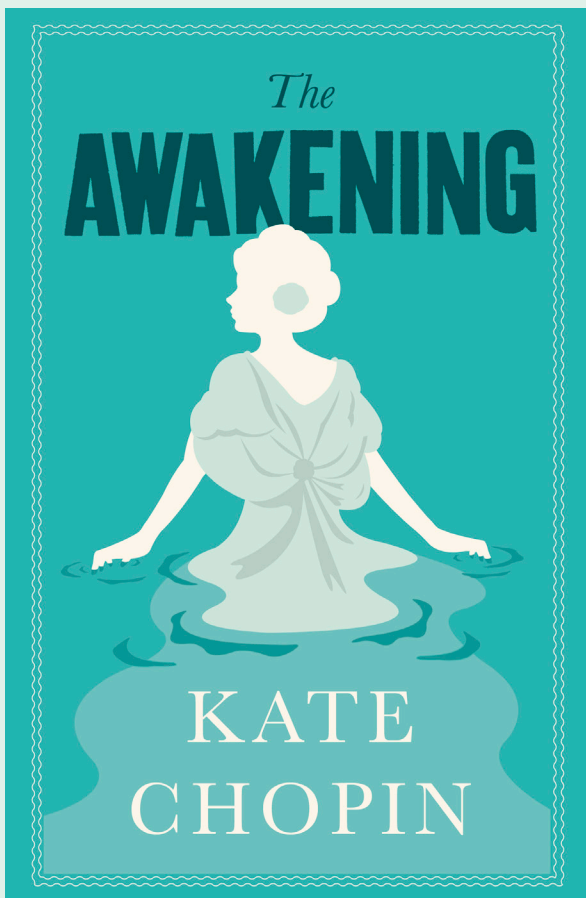
On March 27th and April 3rd, we welcome back James Womack, former Chair of the Art Department at Montgomery Bell Academy, who will teach on the Giotto’s masterpiece, the Arena (Scrovegni) Chapel. The Chapel contains a fresco cycle by Giotto, completed about 1305 and considered to be an important masterpiece of Western art. In 2021, the chapel was declared part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the 14th-century fresco cycles; specifically the Scrovegni Chapel contains the most important frescoes that marked the beginning of a revolution in mural painting and influenced fresco technique, style, and content for a whole century. Giotto is the artist who takes the biggest step away from the medieval style of spiritual representation in painting in the early 14th century and points to the “Late Gothic”—a term which refers to the late Middle Ages, while other people call it the “Proto-Renaissance”—the beginnings of the Renaissance. A revolution began to take place in Italy, the early 1300s in the way people were thinking about the world, the way they thought about the past, and the way they viewed themselves and their relationship

with God. Giotto frescoed the chapel's whole surface, including the walls and the ceiling. Cycles of scenes showing the Life of Christ and the Life of the Virgin were the grandest form of religious art in the period, and Giotto's cycle is unusually large and comprehensive and recounts the story of salvation. His second class will focus on the theme of the Pieta. We were so very inspired by his teaching last Lent on Grunwald’s Isenheim Altarpiece and in Eastertide on Van Eyck’s Ghent Altarpiece that it is a delight to have him return.

Guy Griffith will also offer a Lenten Study on Wednesday evenings in the Westminster Academy time slot starting on Wednesday, March 9th and running through April 6th.

“In the Footsteps of Paul” Study Trip to Greece and Turkey Planned for This Fall

Rev. Guy Griffith and Keith Cole will be co-leading a study trip to Greece and Turkey from September 29 – October 12, 2022. Information and sign-ups will be available in January. For more information or a brochure, contact Guy at ggriffith@nashvillewpc.org or by calling (615) 292-5526 x226.



WPC Book Group

January 26, 2022

9:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Room 192 & Zoom

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Leader: Carol Brewer

Please join WPC Book Group in person, or through Zoom, for a presentation by Westminster member and recently retired AP English teacher, Carol Brewer.

Originally titled *A Solitary Soul*, this novella by Kate Chopin, was first published in 1899. Set in New Orleans and the Southern Louisiana coast at the end of the nineteenth century, the plot centers on Edna Pontellier and her struggle to reconcile her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity.*

*Amazon

This book is about the struggle to find personal identity.