

Westminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY
2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 15, 2017

AT A GLANCE

4400 North Shartel Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

Sunday Schedule

8:30 am - Chapel Worship
9:30 am - Christian Education
10:30 am - Sanctuary Worship

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

Phone (405) 524-2224

Online www.wpcokc.org

Service Broadcast

Sunday mornings on KOCO (check local listings) at 11:00 AM and online via our LiveStream at: <http://www.wpcokc.com/live-streaming>

I would like to speak with a pastor or ministry leader...



Rev. Dr. Paul Kirbas
Pastor / Head of Staff
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Associate Pastor
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Care
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A NOTE FROM REV. DR. PAUL J. KIRBAS

Dear Congregation,

Welcome to a holiday weekend, one that calls us to remember the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. On our Presbyterian USA calendar, today is recognized as Race Relations Day. We live in a time when relationships are strained in several dynamics, whether it be race, creed, politics, or other lines of demarcation. But in God's Kingdom, those lines of separation are erased. How can we eradicate them in our world, and in our lives? That is what our message is about today.

I am particularly impressed by the large number of people who are attending the new Pastor's Class, *Inside Islam*. I think it shows interest in learning more about this religion, to understand it better as we experience the turbulent times we live in. If you are visiting our church because of this class, we welcome you in the love and grace of the Lord. We hope you find a warm welcome here and will come back often.

As we approach February, please keep in mind that during the Sundays of February, I will be preaching a series of messages entitled

Life Together, based on the book written by the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. During the Nazi era, Bonhoeffer led a secret seminary in which students lived in a close community. This book addresses what they learned about the blessings and challenges of being a community in stormy times. Along with our sermon series, I will offer a four-week Wednesday night class that explores the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as well as a deeper study into his book. The class will be offered every Wednesday night of February, from 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM. Light refreshments will be provided beginning at 5:45 PM. I hope you will join us for this month-long Wednesday evening program.

And now, let us look into the window of the early church, and see how racial divisions were erased for the Acts community. It reveals to us a true Vehicle of Transformation and one that is still available to us today!

In God's Love,

Dr. Paul J Kirbas
Pastor/Head of Staff

PASTOR'S CLASS / INSIDE ISLAM

In the past, Dr. Paul Kirbas has taught classes in churches and colleges on the subject of Islam. In this class, we will gain an understanding of the core history and beliefs of Islam, discover the early political divides that still exist in our world today, and investigate the current situation involving Islam and Islamic countries. Islam is one of the most feared and misunderstood religions, especially here in America. As tensions grow in the months ahead, it is important that we understand more deeply what Islam is and what it teaches. So join us for the Pastor's Class, Sundays at 9:30 AM, as we dig down, *Inside Islam!*

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Dear Church Family:

Happy New Year! As we rush off into 2017, I'd like to take a moment to publicly express my gratitude for an outstanding year in Worship and Music Ministries in 2016. Our Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers, and Matin Ringers worked steadily and faithfully throughout the year to prepare and present our first fruits before God in worship on a regular basis. With the help of conductors Anne Dawson, Cheryl Taylor and Bethany Sanders, each of these ensembles enhanced our worship services in bold and sincere ways throughout the year. Steve Thompson, Melissa Plamann, Sallie Pollack and Eleanor Whitsett certainly did their part to make our work successful, as did our Pastors and my wonderful colleagues on the Westminster staff. As many of you know, our 2016 Christmas at Westminster event, which was presented by the Marge Duncan Memorial Concert Series, was featured in a national television broadcast on Christmas Day in addition to several airings on local networks. The tremendous honor of that level of exposure is new for all of us, but I honestly believe that we were able to enrich the Christmas season for countless individuals through our efforts in ministry. I am also grateful to you, our

congregation, for your moral and financial support of our Worship and Music Intern ministry, which is largely funded by designated gifts outside our ministry's operating budget. Again, thank you for your support.

Here are just a few dates that I'd like to put on your schedules so that they don't sneak up on you:

- **February 26, 2017** - Transfiguration Sunday with Oklahoma City University Brass
- **March 1, 2017** - Ash Wednesday
- **April 9, 2017** - Palm Sunday
- **April 13, 2017** - Maundy Thursday: Service of Shadows
- **April 14, 2017** - Good Friday: Muli-Venue Stations of the Cross
- **April 16, 2017** - Easter Sunday: Both worship services will be held in the Sanctuary with our Pastors, Organists, Chancel Choir and the Westminster Brass.

Thank you for the honor of serving God by leading these glorious ministries!

Yours in Christ's Service,

Josh Phelps,
Director of Worship and Music

CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

AN EVENING WITH JEN HATMAKER / JANUARY 23

The Women's Ministry Team is sponsoring a small group ministry excursion especially for our younger women in our Church. Ten tickets have been pre-purchased in anticipation of this small group event, and tickets are, therefore, first come-first served, and free of charge. Child care provided with prior reservation. The event is being held at Oklahoma Christian University on Monday, January 23, 2017. Showtime is 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM at the Garvey Center, Hardeman Auditorium. Please contact Michelle Junkin at mjunkin@wpcokc.org with your request to secure one of the tickets. Please contact Anisa to make reservations for childcare at the church at Agonzalez@wpcokc.org. Note that parents requesting childcare; you will need to provide dinner and snacks for your children as meals will not be provided.



THE JOY OF HOSPITALITY WOMEN'S EVENT / FEBRUARY 25

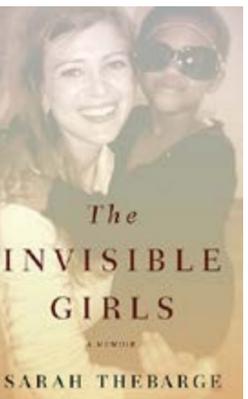
The Women's Ministry Team presents a one-day event for women of Westminster Presbyterian Church and their friends to enjoy a day of rejuvenation, spiritual nurture, respite, and renewal. The day will include worship, a mission project, catered lunch and a message from our featured speaker, Sarah Theborge. The event is open to all women, so everyone is encouraged to invite friends and acquaintances. Tickets are \$60.00 per person. Women's Ministry Team members will be selling tickets on Sundays beginning January 22nd in the Garden Court of the church. Childcare will be provided with reservations. Scholarships are available and all are welcome.

GIRLS OF GRACE / THE INVISIBLE GIRLS – A MEMOIR BY SARAH THEBARGE

You are invited to Girls of Grace to read and reflect on *The Invisible Girls – A Memoir* by Sarah Theborge. Girls of Grace is for women of all ages. We meet on Wednesdays and begin on Wednesday, Jan. 25 with a book pickup and light breakfast. Reading assignments will be handed out on Jan. 25. Then we will discuss the book from Feb. 1 - Feb. 22 at 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Our Spring study is *The Invisible Girls: A Memoir* is about a young woman scarred by her past, a refugee mother uncertain of her future, and the five little girls who brought them together. Sarah Theborge will be speaking at our Women's Retreat on Feb. 25. Childcare reservations upon request and with prior notice. Please e-mail childcare request to Anisa.Gonzalez@wpcokc.org by Jan. 18.

Schedule:

- Jan. 25 - Book pickup, light breakfast, intro & reading Assignments. *Bring a breakfast or pastry item to share.*
- Feb. 1 - Come to class having read and ready to discuss Chapters. 1-20
- Feb. 8 - Come to class having read and ready to discuss chapters 20-40
- Feb. 15 - Come to class having read and ready to discuss chapters 40-60
- Feb. 22 - Come to class having read and ready to discuss chapter 60-80
- Feb. 25 - Come to Women's Retreat and hear Sarah Theborge in person.



THE BLOOD DONOR CHALLENGE

Sign-ups for the Westminster Presbyterian Church Blood Drive will begin today. The Blood Drive will be on Sunday, January 29th from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM in Classrooms 104 & 105.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

We would like to say, "thank you" to all of those who gave and continue to give contributions for the 2016 and 2017 annual budgets, and the 2020 Capital Campaign. Your faithfulness allows WPC to continue our missions and ministries. If you have any questions, please contact the business office at 524-2224 ext. 234.

TRANSCEND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

2017 Campaign	
2017 Stewardship Goal	\$1,800,000
Total amount of pledges received	\$1,473,047
Goal Shortfall	\$326,953
2016 Campaign	
2016 Stewardship Goal	\$1,800,000
Pledges received at this time in the campaign	\$1,666,130

Please help us with our 2017 Budget planning process, by making your pledge today.

SMALL GROUP ON THE RUN

Do you want to be part of a family-friendly, fun event that also helps charities in your community?

Join me this Spring for The Super Run, a 5k run on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Open to any who want to join in, come race with Rev. Junkin, her husband Peter and their children. Registration begins at 8:00 AM and the race starts at 9:00 am. Event ends at 11:00 AM. Individuals will pay for their registration and individually pick-up race packets. You can sign up online using <http://thesuperrun.com/locations/oklahoma-city-ok-superhero-5k-run/>. All participants are encouraged to register and pick up packet early to guarantee to receive fun superhero swag. Childcare is available from 7:30 – 11:30 at the church with prior reservation. Contact Anisa for childcare. Details will be sent to all who sign-up in the Garden Court, regarding car-pooling from church parking lot, where to meet after the race, and other details.



OFFICE CLOSURE / January 16

The church offices will be closed on Monday, January 16th, in observance of the Martin Luther Jr. Day. Martin Luther King Jr. was an influential American civil rights leader and is most well-known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and for racial equality in the United States.

WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

Prelude: *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

Land of Rest, Arr. George Shearing

Time of Welcome

*Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: In Christ there is no east or west,

People: In Him no north or south.

Leader: May the peace of Christ that breaks down walls be with you all,

People: And also with you.

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to worship God, who creates us and loves us;

People: Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

Leader: Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

People: To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

Leader: Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all, and whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.

People: We gather to worship God.

***Processional Hymn: #327** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

+(Verses 1 and 3)

Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, hear our confession and those we offer in the silence....(a silence is kept). Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of God's grace.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Response to Forgiveness: #581** *Glory Be to the Father*

Gloria Patri

++Children's Moment: #341 *O God, Show Mercy to Us*

Thaxted

As the children come forward, the congregation shall sing **verse 1**. As the children return to their seats, the congregation shall sing **verse 2**.

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Old Testament

Deuteronomy 10:12-21, p. 130

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

++Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (*Traditional*)

Hymnal p. 35

++Anthem: *Last Words of David*

Randall Thompson

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.
And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds;
as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.
Alleluia. Amen.

Chancel Choir; Dr. Sallie Pollack, Piano

Reading from the New Testament

Acts 10:24-36, p. 98

Sermon: "THE VEHICLE OF TRANSFORMATION"

Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

***Hymn of Discipleship: #372** *O for a World*

Azmon

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed** (*Traditional*)

Hymnal p. 35

Invitation to Offering

Offertory: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

Antioch, Arr. George Shearing

***Doxology: #606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Old Hundredth

++*Prayer of Thanksgiving

+The Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Recessional Hymn: #756** *O God of Every Nation*

Llangloffan

+(Verses 1 and 4)

*Benediction

Postlude: *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Cologne Gesawbuch, 1623, Arr. John Longhurst

Hymn and scripture text printed with permission granted by CCLI License #2337964.

*This sign is an invitation, to all who are able, to stand as they offer God thanks and praise.

+This sign indicates Chapel Worship Service only.

++This sign indicates Sanctuary Worship Service only.

Leading in Worship

Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care: Rev. Michelle Junkin

Associate Pastor of Youth and Education: Rev. Abbey Walker

Elder Liturgist: Richard Zahn

Director of Worship and Music: Josh Phelps

Organ: Steve Thompson, Principal Organist

Carillon: Lisa Hart

Acolyte: Grace Ferate

CHILDREN

VBS: JUNE 5 - 8



VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for the following jobs. How are you called to serve? For more information, contact Cindy Cannon at: ccannon@wpcokc.org

Opening and Closing Leader (MC) and Music Leaders Large Group Session

1 MC & 2 music leaders needed
Engage children with awesome VBS songs, motions, and excellent VBS activities that emphasize the daily Bible Point during the opening and closing activities.

Imagination Station Leader Small Group Session

1 adult leader & 1 teen helper needed
Use Sciency-Fun Gizmos (fun experiments) to help Kid Crews connect to the daily Bible Point and Bible truths.

KidVid Cinema Leader Small Group Session

1 adult leader & 1 teen/adult helper needed
Show the special KidVid Stories DVD and use the daily Bible Point as you guide Kid Crews in thought-provoking experiences and heart-touching discussions.

Snack Factory Leader Small Group Session

1 adult leader & 2 teen/adult helpers needed
Gather supplies needed for yummy creative snacks. Set up snack preparation area and explain how the snack ties in with the day's Bible verse and Bible Point. Clean up with snack crew at the end of each day.

Game Makers Leader Small Group Session

1 adult leader & 1 teen/adult helper needed
Lead Kid Crews in fun sessions of outdoor games that have a connection to the day's Bible Point.

Spotlight VBS Leader Photographer

Meet Kid Crews at the first session of Game Makers each day to take pictures of kids, according to directions in your script. Run the Spotlight VBS show and wow the kids, volunteers, and parents at the closing each day.

Bible Discovery Leader Small Group Session

1 adult leader & 1 teen/adult helper needed
Transport Kid Crews back to Bible times in unforgettable ways! Use the daily Bible Point as you lead children through incredible and interactive learning activities that make the Bible stories come alive in Bible Discovery each day.

Crew Leaders Small Group Guide

1 adult leader & 1 teen helper needed (20 groups total)

FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER

Mark your calendars for our 6th annual Father and Daughter Dinner on February 12th from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. This year will be a glamorous evening filled with fun activities and dinner. Cost is \$35 per Dad and Daughter and \$40 for Dad and multiple daughters. For more information and to RSVP e-mail Cindy Cannon at: ccannon@wpcokc.org



KINGDOM KIDS ACADEMY

Thank you to everyone who donated to and bid on items in the Winter Wonderland Auction! We are so thankful for your continued support of our programs for young children.

This summer we will be offering a summer session for school age children on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9:30-2:30. It will run from June 6th to Aug 10th with the week of July 4th off. Cost is \$75 a week. If you would like to enroll your 4 - 8 yr old in this session please e-mail heather@wpcokc.com for more information.

K.N.O.W.S. / NEED A NIGHT OUT?

K.N.O.W.S. (formerly Date Night) will be held on Feb 10th. Sign your kids up for K.N.O.W.S. They will have a blast with the activities, hanging out with friends and eating pizza! Cost is \$5 per child. RSVP online or e-mail Anisa Gonzalez at: Agonzalez@wpcokc.org

JR WEST CAMP 2017

10 weeks of Summer Fun!

From: June 5th - August 11th Specials twice a week and tons of fun! Experiments, cooking, water play, games and crafts!

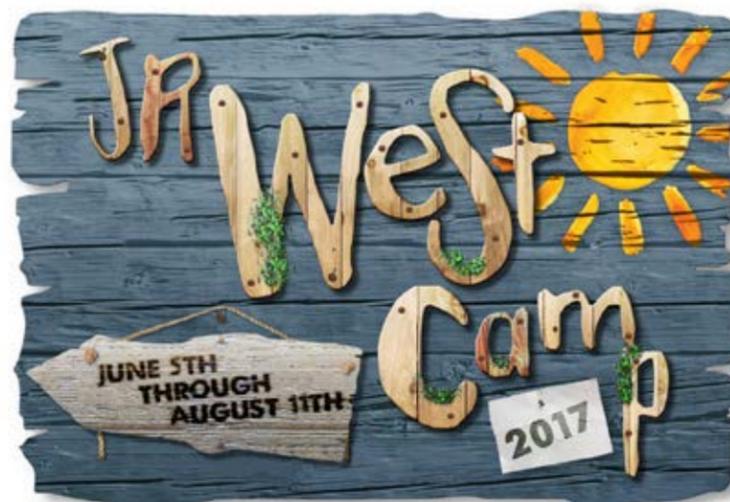
Ages: 4 through completed first grade

Enrollment Fee: \$75.00

Tuition: \$1850

For more information contact: Brandi Poole, Director, at: childcare@wpcokc.org

Space is limited so apply early!



YOUTH AND EDUCATION

MOUNTAIN T.O.P. / JUNE 17-25 / 9TH-12TH Grades

Mountain TOP (Tennessee Outreach Project) is an interdenominational, non-profit Christian partnership ministry affiliated with the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church, dedicated to rural life ministry in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. We seek to meet the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social needs of people through the love of Christ.

The Mountain TOP Service Project provides a physical representation of hope to Cumberland Mountain families. Participants complete minor home repair projects to improve the safety and stability of the homes. These may include porches, wheelchair ramps, painting and yard work - each project resulting from an expressed need. While on the work site, youth are encouraged to work as a member of a team and problem-solve to accomplish the task at hand.

Our young people are also encouraged to interact with families from different socioeconomic backgrounds. The families we work with often have wonderful and inspiring life stories that they love to share with the groups while they are working on the project.

On the work sites, Summer Staffers will lead a devotional centered around the theme for the week, with the group and the family. It is a time to refocus on what God has called them to do that day and why they are doing the work. **We will need a minimum of 6 adults for this trip, males, females and qualified drivers needed.**

Early Bird Deposit: January 20 / \$150
Final Payment: April 3 / \$250
Total Cost: \$400 per teen (need spending money for food, etc.)



MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE / JULY 8-5 / 9TH-12TH Grades

Montreat Youth Conference clears space for encountering God, discovering and deepening a vibrant and durable faith in Jesus Christ, and hearing an invitation to make a personal commitment to embody the love, justice and righteousness of Christ.

This conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship.



We will road trip our way to Montreat July 7; we will stop in Little Rock, AR for sightseeing, then drive to Memphis, TN and stay overnight. July 8 we will drive to Gatlinburg, TN for sightseeing with an overnight stop in Knoxville, TN; Then July 9 we will drive our last leg to camp. On the way home, we will drive straight through from Montreat, NC to OKC, arriving home late. This trip will be on a charter bus. **We will need a minimum of 4 adults for this adventure, males and females needed.**

Early Bird Deposit: January 20 / \$250
Final Payment: April 3 / \$500
Total Cost: \$750 per teen. After April 3, a \$100 late fee will be added.

GOOD SAMARITAN RETREAT

When you drive through the City, you can find financially burdened people with significant needs almost anywhere. What can you do about it? How do these people get in these predicaments? How do we greet these brothers and sisters as if we were greeting Christ himself? Often, many of us go about our day-to-day lives and pay these people little attention. This lock-in will address these issues in our own community and help us to think about what it means to be a Good Samaritan in our own backyards. We'll have a hands-on experience, an opportunity to serve, a short study of the Good Samaritan story, plus all of the normal fun lock-in stuff.

For: High Schoolers
When: Feb 18 @8:00 AM to Feb 19 @11:30 AM
Cost: \$15
Sign up deadline: February 12



PLEASE PRAY

"Please pray for all of our youth and families who are on the ski trip this weekend. We ask prayers for their travels, safety, relationship-building, learning, and fun that they'll have together." - Abbey Walker

FRIDAY FRIENDS

The first one of the Spring semester is this Friday and will be for ages 5th - 8th grades only. Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM in the Youth Room.

FRIDAY FRIENDS
3:30 - 5:00 PM
JAN - 20, 27
FEB - 3, 17, 24
MARCH - 3, 24, 31
APRIL - 7, 21, 28
MAY - 5, 12, 19
DEVOTIONAL, SNACKS & FUN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember to silence all cell phones. No food or drinks are allowed in the Chapel or Sanctuary.

WPC CARES: Members in Need of Care. In order to care for our members who are hospitalized, home bound or simply needing prayer, please notify the church by e-mail at wpccares@wpcokc.org or by phone at 524-2224 ext. 249. Doing so helps our ministers and care team members know whom to visit. Without your help our ability to know who is in the hospital or in need is limited.

Deacon of the Week: Ferrelyn Oakes- Please contact her for congregational care needs at 613-7325.

Membership: Please send membership announcements (birth, marriage, death of relative) and changes (address, email, phone) to June White, june@wpcokc.org, 524-2224 ext 249.

Children's Worship Bags can be found at the entrances to the Sanctuary. The bags contain activities that coordinate with the weekly worship theme. There are also some fun quiet games to enhance their worship experience.

If You Are Interested in scheduling a baptism or wedding, or need to notify the church of a death in order to coordinate a funeral or memorial service, please contact Lori Jirousek, Executive Assistant at 524-2224 ext. 228 or lori@wpcokc.org.

WPC FOUNDATION: Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation has several designated funds that support different ministries and programs of our church. Is the Foundation already in your estate plan? If you have already included the WPC Foundation in your estate plans but have not previously notified us, please let us know. We would like to properly thank you for your support. Please contact the Business Office or any of the Foundation Trustees. Alison Taylor, Chris Stephens, Cliff Hudson, Ellen Morgan, Glenn Dunn, Hal Brown, Jim Richard, John Frick, Paige Bass, Richard Zahn, Sally Bentley or Sarah Frank.

Happy Birthday! The following Westminster members are celebrating their birthdays this week. Please remember them in your prayers, that they may experience God's grace in the coming year.

January 15: Carol Crosby; Leslie Hudson; Sarah Parrish; Jim Robinson; Leslie Russell

January 16: Arden Hall

January 17: Graham Bennett; Janell Fryer; Claire Robinson; Jane Webb

January 18: Paul Austin; Marilyn Balyeat; Susan Edwards; Andy McNew

January 19: Kim Fisher; Bo Hubbard; Diane Mier; Sheryl Nikkel

January 20: William Cohn; John Frick; Ann Simpsen; Betsy Thorpe

January 21: Gary Baker; Mike Kennedy; Marti Lippert; Kim Reed

COMMUNION* DATES

**served every Sunday in the Chapel service*

BAPTISM DATES

(2nd Sunday of each month)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

(3rd Sunday of each month)

WORSHIP FLOWERS

Flowers in the Chapel and Sanctuary may be purchased to honor a loved one or special occasion. These dedications will be mentioned in the bulletin. Please sign up in the book at the reception desk or online at: wpcokc.org. Cost is \$60 per vase and there are 2 vases each week.



WEDNESDAY DESSERTS WITH DIETRICH

Pastor Paul Kirbas will offer a four-week Wednesday night class that explores the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as well as a deeper study into his book. The class will be offered every Wednesday night of February, from 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM. Light refreshments will be provided beginning at 5:45 PM.



OTHER PASTOR LED OFFERINGS

Tuesday Morning Men's Breakfast: All men are invited to our Men's Breakfast held in room LL29. Once again, we will be led by Pastor Paul Kirbas. We begin with a hearty breakfast at 7:30 AM, followed by our lesson. We aim to end by 8:30 AM. Paul will lead us in a study on The Old Testament Book Of Job. All men are invited!

Downtown Bible Study: Downtown Bible study has resumed on Fridays at noon. It is a brown bag lunch program held at the offices of McAfee and Taft, on the 8th floor of Two Leadership Square at 211 North Robinson Street. Rev. Dr. Paul Kirbas is leading this group. If you would like to attend, please contact John Kenney at: john.kenney@mcafeetaft.com

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

Adult Bible Study (January): The Psalms emphasize both creation's praise of God and the call of humanity to praise God. What kind of God can create such a beautiful and awe-inspiring world? How can we get to know this God? Join us in the Library. For more information contact Gil Mitchell (820-5150).

Adventurers Class: Comprised of adults ages 40 and over, the Adventurers meet downstairs in room LL30.

Genesis Class: This 50 and up singles class meets downstairs in LL28

Jan. 22: Dr. Kerry Magruder, Curator of OU History of Science Collection, "The Star of Bethlehem."

Jan. 29: Audrey Streetman, program leader

Cornerstone Class: For young professionals and families, LL29, studying the Animate series on the Bible, led by Richard Zahn.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Feeling Lonely and Forsaken?

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from me, from the words of my groaning?
Ps. 22:1*

These familiar words, written by the psalmist and cried out by Jesus on the cross, express the isolated loneliness of desperate suffering. Jesus suffered physically from his torturous experience through trial and crucifixion. He also suffered psychologically. Feeling abandoned by his disciples and the One he loved most, Jesus cried out in terror. You may also be waiting for God's presence, living in loneliness and despairing grief, feeling you cannot find a way toward hope and relief. Just as Jesus cried out, God invites your honest emotions.

In times of loneliness and isolation, we can look to caring Christian friends to listen to us while we work through our feelings. A Stephen Minister can be such a friend, either to you or someone you know. If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry, please contact Rev. Michelle Junkin, our pastor for congregational care.