



Westminster Chimes

Coming in to be nurtured, going out to serve

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One Great Hour of Sharing

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8

The Presbyterian Church (USA) accepts three offerings each year from congregations throughout the United States: the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering, the World Communion Offering, and the Christmas Joy Offering. During Lent and Eastertime, Westminster accepts funds for OGHS, which supports work to address hunger, disaster, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees. OGHS is a response to Christ's call to compassion to help people in need.

In the past, OGHS focused on hunger, disaster assistance, and the self-development of people, and funds were divided equally among those areas. Now, the scope of OGHS's support has broadened, and funds collected are distributed more flexibly to address situations of highest need.

When you give to OGHS, you help to make a difference to communities in the United States and around the world. For example, in Miami, SMASH—Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing—was created in response to the unsafe housing conditions endured by local poor communities. SMASH, a worker-led cooperative community land trust organization, seeks to build community power for housing and climate justice, envisioning a world where housing is a human right. It was funding from a PC(USA) grant that was one of the principal reasons SMASH could open the first housing cooperative.

Another example of OGHS funds making an impact takes us across the world to Ghana. There, when widespread flooding affected more than 26,000 people, destroying homes and resources, the PC(USA) assisted with disaster recovery. Partnering with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana, the PC(USA) helped to provide relief items including food, water, clothing, hygiene items, mattresses, and more.

The mission areas supported by OGHS align well with Westminster's mission areas, which include working for justice, support of children and youth, and addressing houselessness and poverty. You, our members and friends, have long cared about these issues, and we are grateful for your generous responses. Last year, Westminster collected \$9,089 for OGHS; this year, our goal is \$9,500.

Continued next page

One Great Hour of Sharing, Continued

On March 29, the congregation will hear a Community Moment about OGHS, and then on April 5, Easter, we will collect the offering in worship. (OGHS donation envelopes will be provided.) Please consider making a gift to OGHS, either during Lent or on Easter Sunday. If you're writing a check, please write "OGHS" in the memo line. If you're giving on our website at westprespdx.org, click the "online giving" button, then on the giving form, select "One Great Hour" in the fund dropdown menu (scroll to the bottom of the menu). Thank you for your support of One Great Hour of Sharing!

Gospel Sunday

On Sunday, April 26, at 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary, Westminster will have Gospel Sunday! Please join us as the choir and congregation will sing gospel music. The Keys to the Kingdom Duo (Michael Barnes and Leslie Lehmann) will also play. We hope to see you there!

Breakfast-Themed Food Drive

On Sunday, April 26, we will be collecting breakfast foods to support our neighbors served by Mainspring Portland. Ideas for items to donate include boxed cereals, packs of fruit cups, applesauce, granola bars, pancake mixes, waffle mixes, muffin mixes, etc. (Please, no homemade items, expired items, or items in glass jars.) Please bring your donations to fellowship time (around 11:30 a.m.) on April 26, where you can drop them off at the drive's collection tent in the church parking lot. If you can't make it to church that day, please consider a financial gift instead; please write "April 26th food drive" on the memo line of your check to Westminster or note it on the memo line of your online gift. Thank you!

Holy Week and Easter



We invite you to join us for Holy Week and Easter! Holy Week starts on Sunday, March 29, with Palm Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. The service will include a parade of people waving palms, signifying Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We will have communion, and we will hear about the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which will be collected on Easter. Although Westminster will not have a Maundy Thursday service on April 2, you may wish to attend Maundy Thursday worship at Rose City Park Presbyterian (1907 NE 45th Ave., Portland) from 6:30 – 7 p.m. with communion. On April 3, we will have Good Friday worship at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. The service will include choir and bell music. Parents of children, please be aware that words used will describe Christ's violent death and the service ends in darkness. (This service will not be livestreamed.)

On Easter day, April 5, we will have identical services offered at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in our sanctuary. (The 11 a.m. service will be livestreamed.) Please join us for a joyful worship that includes the singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"! We will also tell the Easter story for children using dyed Easter eggs. Although it's the first Sunday of the month, we will not have communion. Also on Easter, Children's Ministry will host an Easter-egg hunt for children at 10:15 a.m. in the courtyard. In the case of bad weather, the hunt will happen in the Sunday School room under the sanctuary. We will have one fellowship time offered right after the 9 a.m. service (beginning approximately at 10 a.m.), before the 11 a.m. service. We will be in the courtyard, if weather allows; in the case of bad weather, we will be in the Great Hall. There will not be fellowship time after the 11 a.m. service. We hope to see you in worship!

Pastor's Column

The Rev. Gregg Neel at 503-287-1289, ext. 114

The pastor's page is used in a variety of ways, but this is a new one for me.

I have requested and received permission to take family leave. My mom is starting treatment for a recently diagnosed cancer, and my two brothers and I will be taking turns living with her in Tucson, Arizona, while she is receiving treatments. I will be away April 13 – 26 and May 3 – 8, then I start a three-week sabbatical on May 11. I'll be back in the office on June 1.

While I am away, Jonathan Dyer, Director of Church Operations, is the Acting Head of Staff. As always, please contact Lindsey Hubbard-Groves or Junha Kim for pastoral care needs.

It is a privilege to be one of Westminster's pastors. I am grateful for both this family leave and sabbatical time. I just want you all to know that I am very grateful and give thanks for this Westminster community.



Portland CROP Hunger Walk

The Portland CROP Hunger Walk, an annual walk held by people from faith communities all over Portland, will be held on Sunday, April 19th. As we stroll together along the beautiful waterfront, we will walk in solidarity with people who don't have adequate access to food or shelter. The funds we raise will go to two groups: 1) Church World Service, an international organization which addresses hunger around the world, will receive 75% of funds raised, and 2) Northeast Emergency Food Program, a local organization that addresses food insecurity in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington, will receive 25%. For the first time ever, this year's walk will be led by youth! The three-mile walk will start and end at Saint Mary's Academy (1615 SW 5th Ave., Portland). The walk starts at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for walkers. If you get there by 1 p.m., you can help make signs that we will carry as we walk.

Here's how the fundraising works: Walkers ask for donations to the Westminster Team page (<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/westminster-presbyterian-church-portland>) or the Portland CROP Walk page (<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/portlandor>). Money that is raised other than online can be brought to Saint Mary's Academy on day of the walk. (Make your check to "CWS / CROP" if you're bringing it on walk day.) If you're not walking, you can use the CROP Walk web pages to donate, or you can donate through Westminster, either by sending us a check or giving on our website at westprespx.org (note "CROP Walk" in the memo line of your check or online gift). Together with area churches, our goal is to raise \$10,000 this year. We raised almost \$8,000 last year, so this is really doable if we all pitch in!

For more information, please contact Jon Makler, Program Manager of NEFP, at nepf@emoregon.org. Thank you for your generosity!

Adult Education Programming in April

Classes are held at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays in the chapel and on Zoom. To get on the Adult Education Program's e-mail list, contact Jonathan at office@westprespdx.org.

April 5 - No class

April 12

Aligned with Christ, not "Christianity"

The Reverend Junha Kim

"We're not like *those* Christians."

Join us on April 12th to hear from Junha Kim about his dissertation in Comparative Theology and Ethics. Writing about the history of Christianity and theology in the United States from the perspective of a 1.5 generation immigrant, Jun is creating a theological model – a framework for understanding individual faith and the "big picture" of Christianity – that might make clear what people mean when they say, "We're not like *those* Christians."

How can we build community with those who live out the life of Christ without worrying whether they call themselves Christian? How do we build bridges across seemingly impossible divides?

Inspired by the historical and contemporary co-conspiratorships between interreligious, intercultural communities, Jun's theological model for Christianity reframes "Christian community," offering an illustration of kin-dom community shaped by people whose lives reflect the life and ethic of Jesus Christ as opposed to by religious affiliation alone.

April 19

An Interview with Dick Rohrbaugh, A Favorite Professor and Fellow Sojourner

Join us for a conversation with Dick Rohrbaugh, who has taught more adult education classes at Westminster in Portland than possibly any other professor. Adult Education Committee members will consider questions of favorite classes they remember and ask Dick what he might change now as we look back. We will also be collecting questions from attendees ahead of time so we can prepare. If you'd like to submit a question for us to consider, email Lindsey at: lgroves@westprespdx.org by April 9th. Thank you, Dick, for continuing to share your knowledge and care with us!

April 26

Holy Befuddlement: What Do Books Have to Do With Your Faith Journey?

Jane Kurtz and Caroline Kurtz

As Presbyterians, we have a long heritage of literacy, rooted in Scotland. And today? What do books mean for your faith journey today? Can reading and writing still be part of ministry to our communities? Do the ways we tell our life stories shape our brains and hearts? George Saunders, author of 13 books and winner of the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, says fiction can help us ask deeper, more moral questions as it creates "holy befuddlement." Can writing and reading be part of our spiritual quest when (for example) a Duke Divinity School professor offers a book titled *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* or a public theologian publishes *Church Camp: Bad Skits, Cry Night, and How White Evangelicalism Betrayed a Generation*? Jane Kurtz and Caroline Kurtz will share insights and lead a discussion. Bring a favorite book if you like.

Jane Kurtz is an author of more than 40 books for young readers and is on the faculty of the Vermont College of Fine Arts, MFA in Children's and YA Literature. Caroline Kurtz has written three memoirs, the latest about her pilgrimage on the Oregon Coast Trail.

Meet Your Elders - Caroline Greger, Class of 2026

In this column, we'll introduce you to the elders who serve on Westminster's Session. If you're a Westminster member who might be interested in being an elder, contact the Reverend Gregg Neel for more information (gneel@westprespdx.org).

Which committee(s) do you serve on, and what do you do with them?

I am currently on Session, serving as Chair of the Worship and Music Committee and as a member of the Safety Task Force. I coordinate the prayer team and have been part of the Taizé Healing & Wholeness Service since its inception in 2000.

How long have you been active at Westminster?

I joined Westminster in 1977. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area but came to Westminster after living in Norfolk, Virginia, where my husband had been stationed in the Navy. He had grown up near Portland, so this is where we came when he completed his service. There were very few young people in the congregation then and the young adults group was anyone under 50!



I have previously served as a deacon and on the Pastor Nominating Committee that recommended Beth and Gregg Neel to Westminster in 2011. Many years ago, I was part of the Monday Morning Group, a women's spiritual support group that met weekly and organized the first women's retreat, held at Menucha 47 years ago. I remember the year because I was eight months pregnant with my first child at that retreat and somehow slept on a bunk bed!

How do you like to spend your free time?

I love to spend time with my daughters, Elizabeth and Christine, and their families. I have four grandchildren, ages 7 - 18. I spend a lot of time in my garden, and I hope to travel more, especially to France where I lived for a year when I was a college student. I try to stay fluent in French so I can converse with my friends there. I have studio in NW Portland where I paint. I am grateful for the Westminster Cloisters Gallery where I have had four shows over the years. I especially have enjoyed making liturgical banners for the sanctuary recently.

Do you have pets?

Sadly, no.

What's something people probably don't know about you?

What I love about Westminster is the community and spiritual nurture that I have found here. I especially appreciate the sermons and adult education classes that nurture and challenge me in my faith journey. I was only 25 years old when I became a member, and now I'm a grandmother! My two daughters grew up in this congregation. Both were active in the youth group, and they were baptized and confirmed here. My church family has supported me through both good times and hard times. Westminster has supported and sustained me through the pandemic and a late life divorce. Every week, I am blessed to be surrounded by beauty in our sanctuary while listening to beautiful music and meaningful sermons. I am among wonderful friends who love and serve Christ and the community. I am so grateful.

What's one thing you enjoy about serving on Westminster's Session?

I enjoy the respect and care shown for each other and the congregation when we are making decisions.

Session Action in March

In its March 2026 meeting, the Session:

- Heard a report from the Personnel Committee co-chairs that Gregg Neel will be on family leave from April 13 to April 26 to provide support to his mom while she is receiving treatment for cancer.
- Approved a rewritten job description for the office of deacon.
- Heard John Barker present details about the previously approved motion from the February Session meeting for accepting gifts toward "A Living Memorial Landscape Fund." More information will be provided to the congregation in the May Chimes.
- Approved a recommendation from the trustees changing the minimum dollar amount to establish a board-designated and/or donor-designated fund from \$50,000 to \$200,000.
- Approved a recommendation from the trustees at the request of the Property Committee that Property receive a \$50,000 advance from the Building Maintenance Fund to replace the lighting in the chapel and install a new ceiling. The total is to be drawn from the annual spenddown for 2027, 2028, and 2029.
- Voted, after hearing a recommendation from the trustees, to form a Session task force to evaluate and recommend implementation on how to use funds provided by Joe Robertson's gift (approx. \$667,000). The task force will have six members including a Session member, two trustees, and a member of the Strategic Planning and Visioning Task Force.
- Approved a motion from the Worship and Music Committee that children's music ministry be placed on temporary hiatus until January 2028, at which time a report will be made to Session regarding the future direction of children's music.
- Approved a motion from the Personnel Committee implementing the Providence Gold 1500 health-insurance plan for lay staff.
- Approved a new policy from the Safety Task Force regarding Sunday morning fire safety.

April Birthdays



We rejoice with those members, friends of our congregation, and staff who celebrate birthdays in April:

4/1	Keeley McAnnis-Entenman	4/17	Catie Carver, Janie Kurtz
4/2	Elizabeth Hickey, Diana De Tar-Marchand	4/18	Lee Ann Bourcier, Joy Hoffacker, Eileen Parfrey
4/3	John Sutter, Margaret Price	4/20	Rebecca Saltonstall, Meredith Kostek
4/4	Peter Stephens	4/21	Carol Rapp, Alaina Smith
4/5	Laurel Hoffman, Doug King	4/22	Jan Harvey, Patti Lachenmeier, Morgan Worth
4/7	Sally Woolley	4/24	Kent Batley, Olivia Olmsted
4/8	Kris Hoeveler	4/25	Emily Housley, Jason Houser
4/9	John Stephens	4/26	Janice Best
4/10	Pete Osterburg, Heather McDowell, Samantha Kaiser	4/27	Nancy Martin, Kent Dolan, Brad Wheeler
4/11	Gussie Hayter	4/29	Karl Vischer, Lora Lillard, Emily Tomasz
4/12	Holly Schmidt, Sidne Gregory, Geoff Ereth	4/30	Heather Newcomb
4/13	Caron Rowland		
4/14	Shirley Staley		
4/15	Bryce Kennedy, Jack Robinson, Dixee Partee		

Taking Communion Into the Community

The Reverend Eileen Parfrey will be holding a training for any current or formerly ordained deacon or elder who wishes to be able to take communion to members and friends of Westminster who haven't been able to attend worship. The training will be Sunday, April 26, at noon in the chapel. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Eileen. Contact the church office if you need her e-mail address.

Sound of Hope

EMO (Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon) invites you to join them on Saturday, April 11, for Sound of Hope, an uplifting evening of music in support of Slavic survivors! The concert will feature a variety of Slavic musicians and vocalists, including Inna Kovtun, Lana Markov, Maria Ombush, vocalist Aleksandra Sinitsina, and violinist Isabella Yarmolich. Before the concert, enjoy refreshments and purchase tickets to win raffle prizes.

Hosted at Westminster in the Great Hall, the concert begins at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. for tea time. Tickets are \$30; children 12 and younger are free. Tickets are available on the EMP website (<https://emoregon.org/event/soss-concert/>) and at the door. Proceeds benefit EMO's Slavic Oregon Social Services, which assists survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Supporting Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity (Portland Region) is sponsoring partnerships with a major national donor and local faith-based organizations to complete a 17-unit complex of homes in SE Portland. Westminster's Mission & Service Committee has approved our participation as a partner in the Pope Leo XIV Village Partnership. As a result, we will have the opportunity to help Habitat in a variety of ways, including participating in team build days at work sites. We also will be sponsoring two tables (for up to 18 people) at Habitat's annual Hope Builder Lunch, which will be Wednesday, April 22, from 12 to 1 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center (777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland) in the Portland Ballroom. If you would like to attend the lunch and sit at a Westminster table, or if you'd like more information on volunteering for Habitat, please contact Westminster member Jack Robinson. Contact the church office if you need his e-mail address.

North by Northeast Community Health Center

North by Northeast Community Health Center is the first and only independent medical clinic in Oregon devoted to African American/Black health. Its mission is to improve health outcomes and advance health equity by offering primary care services, health education, and promotion focused on the African American/Black community. Its origins began with the collaboration of Pastor Mary Overstreet Smith of NE Portland and Dr. Jill Ginsberg, a family physician, following the climate disaster of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Pastor Mary relocated 40 families of hurricane survivors, providing food, housing, and clothing. When she discovered that no affordable medical care was available to them and many others in Northeast Portland, she convinced Dr. Ginsberg to help her open a free clinic, which they did in 2006. This year, Westminster's Mission and Service Committee authorized \$2,500 to support their efforts. Executive Director Suzy Jeffreys has given a presentation through Westminster's Adult Education program.

Dr. Ginsberg and Pastor Mary were women of faith in action. Dr. Ginsberg was guided by the Jewish teaching, "Although you do not have to finish the task, neither are you free to desist from it." The task continues. The clinic is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Saturday, May 16th, with a Community Supper at the Oregon Convention Center. The event includes a dinner, live auction, music, and dancing. If you are interested in attending, look on the event's website (<https://nxneclinic.ejoinme.org/cs2026>) or contact Kate Thompson for additional information. Contact the church office if you need her e-mail address.

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Chimes articles are due by 5 p.m. on the dates listed below.

- ◆ April 15 for May 1-31
- ◆ May 13 for June 1-30

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If you want to end your postal-mail subscription, please e-mail Jonathan at office@westprespdx.org.