



# Southwest Winds

*My Heaven home is here,  
No longer need I wait  
To Cross the foaming river  
Or pass the pearly gate.*

*I've angels all around me,  
With kindness they surround me,  
To a glorious cause they've bound me,  
My heavenly home is here.*

Shaker Hymn

## Images Around the Church

April 1 was Easter Sunday, and was the first of five Sundays in April when folks were encouraged to come up and sign the one year Covenant with Westminster Presbyterian Church.







Easter Sunday



Assembling Homeless Bags



## April 12th Session Actions

Kathy and I were called out of town and I missed the meeting so this report was extracted from the notes and reports kindly supplied by our Clerk of Session, Valdine Brower.

The plans for the playground were discussed. The play-set cost \$2,202.49 and additional costs incurred were for rental of the skid steer loader and the rubber mulch for cushioning.



### The Following policies were passed by Session on April 12, 2018:

1. That persons given authority and responsibility over specific areas of church life be given the authority to spend funds budgeted for that area within the budget, without having to have every expense approved by the Session. Further, that in the case that an expense will exceed the budget, the person in authority will report to the Session for its input, and for support in seeking funds outside the budget (fundraising). Funds for a project are to be raised before the project is initiated.
2. That all projects, including volunteer, be approved through the chairperson of the appropriate committee, and scheduled through the church office.
3. That all funds taken for church purposes be recorded through the intake process (including amount and name of giver (s), and that cash not be taken home by individuals on behalf of the church.

All funds will be taken to the bank after church, event, etc. to be deposited in the night deposit.

### Other Announcements at Session:

- The first **Congregational Council Meeting** using the consensus model will be held September 9, 2018.
- A **strategic planning workshop** will be held Friday June 1st from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, June 2nd from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.. All session members, active deacons, and members of the Vision Team are strongly urged to attend.
- The money from the **Gary Paul Concert** will be used toward building our playground.

### Brief Financial Report from the Treasurer as of March 31:

Cash on hand (bank balance).....	\$12,366.51
Checkbook register balance.....	12,249.48
Cash dispensed (cleared the bank).....	15,192.43
Cash received.....	7,205.17

**The next scheduled Session meeting is May 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m..**

The session meeting was opened and closed with prayer.





## From the Deacons

With many, many thanks – on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Lorelei shared a message from Acts 4:32-35 about unified believers sharing all they had. There was a great grace upon those early believers and there is an incredible grace upon the people serving Christ at Westminster. Pastor Lorelei charged us to go home and write out Acts 4:32-35 and put it someplace that we could reflect upon it. How were we called to serve those in need among us? Immediately after the service, people gathered to work and put together the We Care Bags, so we could each have a care package (or 2 or 3) in our cars to hand out to people in need. Thank you so much to all who contributed (time, goods, monetary donations) to making this project a success.

It is such a joy to serve Christ with this body of believers. That day at the end of the service we heard about a need and saw an immediate response to Pastor Lorelei's message, her charge, and the scripture lesson. Thank you so much for reaching out to support a need in our midst. While our Session would much prefer that our donations come through a formal giving process to be recorded, it truly reminded me of the Acts passage when the believers sold their possessions and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, so it could be distributed to those in need. Well done my fellow servants, well done.

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Looking Ahead – New Teacher Orientation will take place in early August. Westminster would once again like to put together some goodie bags to welcome the new teachers to Gallup. We are collecting items to include in the new teacher orientation welcome bags and will collect throughout June and July. Suggested items include: cracker sandwiches, mini-hand sanitizers, candy, Emergence-C, snack bars, dry erase markers, Post-It note pads, Band-Aids, paper clips, or any other small items a new teacher might enjoy. Please place items in the collection box on the table in the fellowship area. Thanks in advance!!

Nicole Jones

## The Westminster Presbyterian Covenant

The following is a list of people who during the month of April have signed the covenant which reads, "I covenant to growth in Jesus Christ and with the life of this congregation for one year."

1. Marcia Monterroso
2. David Conejo
3. Sharna Sutherin
4. Kathy Mezoff
5. John Mezoff
6. Mike Faz
7. Rev. Lorelei Kay
8. Bruce Williams
9. Holly Stravers
10. Andrew Stravers
11. Pam Burgess
12. Serenea Robare
13. Lucille Begay
14. Heather Nasi
15. Juliana Stravers
16. Scott Nydam
17. Erica Birlew
18. Betsy Windisch

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### Mission Statement, Possible Changes

Lorelei, in her leadership training with Bill Lee (of the Chamber of Commerce and McKinley County Commission), learned that the WPC Mission Statement developed at our January All-Church Retreat is actually a values statement. The Session and Vision Team met on April 18, and formulated a proposed revision, to be presented to the congregation on May 6.

#### **The Statement created January 19 and 20:**

*We are a family of believers in Jesus Christ, who imperfectly embody the love of God.*

*We desire to live in harmony with Mother Earth and all of God's Creation. We are a community that cherishes and practices worship, healing, hospitality, justice, peacemaking, and spiritual growth.*

*We publicly affirm all peoples, as created in the image of God and invite all to join us on this journey.*

#### **The Proposed Revision: Our Values**

We, the community of Westminster Presbyterian Church, desire to live in harmony with Mother Earth and all of God's Creation. We are a community that cherishes and practices worship,

healing, hospitality, justice, peacemaking, and spiritual growth.

### Our Mission

We are a family of believers in Jesus Christ, who imperfectly embody the love of God. As a community of faith, we are called to make visible to the world God's hope for humanity and all of creation. We proclaim Jesus in thought, word, and deed. We welcome and publicly affirm all peoples as created in the image of God and invite all to join us on this journey.

### Our Vision

Thought: We are intentional about our faith, reading scriptures in community and discerning together God's character and God's guiding.

Word: We listen for God to speak through the person and teachings of Jesus. We have the courage to speak out in support of social justice.

Deed: Our faith is made alive in our actions.

All of these come together when we gather as the people of god - including people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; of varied cultures, classes and statuses; and with differing understandings of the Divine - seeking truth and lifting each other up with compassion and love.

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## Playground Assembly Finished on May 5, but More Mulch Needed



Work Crew Saturday May 5, 2017, Joshua took the Picture



Holly provided a great lunch to the workers.

## Poor Peoples Campaign

Anna Rondon spoke to folks gathered at WPC on April 17, 2017 for the Interfaith Potluck about the Poor Peoples Campaign.

She spoke of the original Poor Peoples Campaign starting in 1968 by sanitation workers with Dr. Martin Luther King. That was the year he was murdered. Recently Rev. Barber spoke from the place where Dr. King died, and Barber is now leading the campaign.

She said that this is a national campaign to end systemic racism, change the nation's distorted sense of morality, and to make a shift from our war economy. Also mentioned are efforts to get people out to vote, recognition of civil rights, human rights, and environmental rights, and renouncing the Doctrine of Discovery.

Ideas were thrown out from those present as to how to get started and proceed. This was Anna Rondon's first local meeting to try and organize the campaign. She urged folks to look at the website <[Poor Peoples Campaign.org](http://PoorPeoplesCampaign.org)> to see the issues, policies, and challenges that could be addressed.

The next interfaith potluck was moved up to May 8 at 6:30 p.m. because of a conflict with the Gallup Community Concert Association Concert on May 15. Anna said that she would be back on May 8th for more ideas.

## Remember Taize Worship Service

The monthly service in the style of Taize of worship, meditation, and singing and silence will be May 13 at 4:00 p.m. here at the church. Silent meditation is not for everyone, but those who make this a practice find that the practice clarifies, slows us down, and can enable an experiential connection with quiet voices that are so hard to hear in our noisy and frenetic world.



## Southwest Winds

May 2018

The date for submission to the editor for the June edition will be June 1, 2018  
Southwest Winds is published on a monthly basis except during the summer to report on church activities and be another medium of communication between members and friends of WPC

### Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

is located a mile south of the intersection of Historic Route 66 and Boardman (State Highway 564) on Boardman

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 AM

The Church Telephone is (505) 905 3247

The Church Website is <[www.wpcgallup.org](http://www.wpcgallup.org)>

## She Flies on: A White Southern Christian Debutante Wakes Up

by Carter Heyward

Will be the next book for the Friday night Book group. The group will meet May 11 at Lorelei's house, 509 Cactus, for a potluck and book discussion. The book, as much as I have read, is about connectedness, relationship, the doctrine of the trinity expanded, and the church universal in our time. It should be an interesting read and interesting and enlightening discussion. You can tell Lorelei that you need a copy or you can get an electronic edition through Google Books or Amazon Kindle Books.

JMM