

## April 2025

Vol.3/No.1

# What's inside Livissue?

- Calendar Highlights for April/May/June
- Holy Week Services
  - Palm Sunday, April 13th 10:30pm
  - Maundy Thursday, April 17th 6:30pm
  - o Tenebrae Service of Darkness, April 17th 7:15pm
  - Resurrection Sunday, April 20th 10:30pm

### Session Reports

- Discipleship
- Building & Grounds
- Personnel & Worship
- Financial Stewardship
- Outreach & Generosity

### Staff Ministry

- Cindy Ray, Parish Associate
- Natalie Steenson, Communications Shepherd
- Pastor Shamaine Chambers King, To the Flock

### Celebrating Community

 Community life photos by December/January/February/March

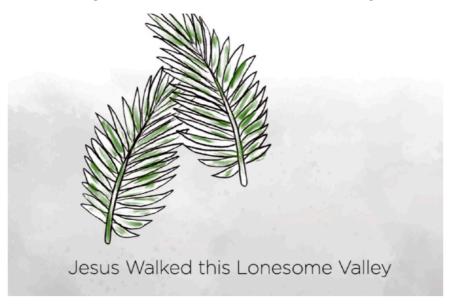


For the most up-to-date information on what's happening at WPC, click <u>HERE</u> to be directed to our official website calendar!

### **Upcoming Calendar Highlights:**

- April 9 Lenten Study with WUMC -- 5:30pm
- April 10 Prayer Circle -- 2:30pm
- April 13 Palm Sunday Worship -- 10:30am
- April 17 Maundy Thursday/Communion/Tenebrae -- 6:30pm
- April 20 Resurrection Sunday (Easter) -- 10:30am
- April 26 **Presbyterian Women** (note: date change) -- 10:00am
- April 30 WOW resumes -- 5:30pm
- April 30 Choir resumes -- 7:00pm
- May 1 **CFUM Meal Preparation, Set Up & Serve** -- 1:30pm
- May 8 Prayer Circle -- 2:30pm
- May 10 Steenson Piano Recital (Sanctuary) -- 10:00am
- May 17 Presbyterian Women -- 10:00am
- June 21 Presbyterian Women -- 10:00am

### **Holy Week to Resurrection Sunday**



### A Holy Week Reflection

You may prepare for our Holy Week journey by reading Luke 22-23 and listening to this recording of Dwight Tomes singing <u>Jesus Walked this</u>
<u>Lonesome Valley</u> with Elaina Steenson accompaniment on the viola.

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley



Sunday, April 13, 2025 | 10:30 am







### DISCIPLESHIP

Angie King, Session Leader

### Presbyterian Women Meet

Our Presbyterian Women's group kicked off a new study on March 16. This year's curriculum is entitled "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation". We'll be discussing environmental justice, food justice, water and air justice, land justice, and economic climate justice along with others. This is a most timely topic and will surely lead to spirited and heartfelt conversations. Please join us the third Saturday of the month at 10:00am in Ward Hall. Bring a friend! Our next meeting is April 26 (note: date change), and the subsequent dates are May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, and November 15.

### Wired Word Adult Sunday School Curriculum

Each Sunday at 9:15, Adult Sunday School reads about recent current events and how they relate to our spiritual lives and our Christian faith. We've talked about the plane crash in the Potomac, similarities between Lent and Ramadan, a movement called "Muscular Christianity," the unforeseen effects of the demise of cursive handwriting, why adults run away, and many other thought-provoking subjects. We have a great group and would love to have others joining us each week.

### WOW & Choir Resume April 30th!



On **April 30**, we will launch our springtime WOW, which we're calling **"Food, Fun, and Fellowship."** 

Each Wednesday at 5:30pm, we'll share a simple meal which will be provided. After we eat, we're going to play! Games, Cards, Puzzles, Pin Ball, whatever trips your fancy. Or, if you don't feel like playing some evening, then we'll have a conversation table so folks can just visit. It's going to be very laid back with no lesson or real purpose except to laugh and play and have fun together!

We'll wrap up by 7:00pm so **Choir** can rehearse.



### PERSONNEL & WORSHIP

Laura Ward, Session Leader

# What an interesting few months this has been!

We were very well taken care of by Rev. Jon Bailey, Rev. Bob
Culbertson, Rev. Cindy Ray, and
Rev. Nathan Williams while
Shamaine was first recovering. It has been so sweet to have Shamaine back preaching again after sustaining so much damage to her brain and body. Although she looks wonderful now, she still is dealing with issues regarding eyesight, bright lights, various noises, and some of the things she took for granted before are seeming very precious and out of reach right now.

Going forward, we are going to pay careful attention to what works for her and what doesn't. We know already that writing a sermon takes four or five times longer than it used to

To our angels who performed a task they weren't accustomed to doing, and to the card writers and the callers and the prayer angels we give our heartfelt thanks. I have been so impressed at your patience and we will draw on it more in the coming weeks as she continues to find her way back.

### Easter Season is more than a day!

The church's Easter season begins on Resurrection Sunday, April 20th and continues for 7 weeks until Pentecost Sunday on June 8th. Below are the scriptures we will be reading in both Luke and Acts. along with the Psalm reading for each Sunday.

### **Eastertide Season Readings**

Date	Sunday	Scripture	Psalm
4/20	Easter	Luke 24:1-12 Empty tomb, women perplexed, bring the message. "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"	Psalm 118:17, 21-24
4/27	Easter 2	Luke 24:13-35 Road to Emmaus "Were not our hearts burning within us?" "Our hearts burned along the road, as he opened to us the Scriptures."	Psalm 30
5/4	Easter 3 communion	Luke 24:36-43 "Have you anything here to eat?"	Psalm 4
5/11	Easter 4	Luke 24:44-53 "You are witnesses of these things"	
5/18	Easter 5	Acts 1:1-11 "You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" Jesus ascends to heaven	Psalm 47; 93
5/25	Easter 6	Acts 1:9-14 "Why are you looking toward heaven?" and devoted to prayer	Psalm 68:1- 10, 32-35
6/1	Easter 7	Acts 1:15-26 A new witness to the resurrection	Psalm 1
6/8	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-41 Day of Pentecost, Peter's sermon	104:24-34, 35b; 16; 116:1-4, 12- 19

We also need some Psalms recorded for the Eastertide Season (118, 30, 4, 47, 93, 68). Please let Natalie know if you are willing to read one (see Natalie's article below).

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Dana Mitchell, Session Leader

Thanks be to God that we made it through another winter without any major mechanical challenges, hopefully the spring and summer seasons continue as well.

### **East Door Replaced**

As you may have noticed, we had the East office door replaced at the beginning of the year, the old one was in very bad shape, didn't seal out the elements and creatures very well, and the closer finally gave up after one more final wind gust.

### Saturday Work Days Resuming in April

We will be having the first of our Saturday work days coming up, date to be determined, possibly April 12th to get done before Easter. We will be doing some general yard cleanup, and some projects indoors too.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Ron Grohe, Session Leader

### **February Financials**

The month of February was a "downer" for the Operating account at Windsor. Total Income was \$10,600 below budget and Total Expenses were \$1,100 lower than budget so, Net Income was \$11,700 under budget. Income was lower, mainly due to General Contributions being much lower than normal. Expenses were, once again, adequate, as almost all categories were lower than budgeted except that we expended \$3,300 for the replacement of the East door to the office.

### **March Financials**

Windsor's Operating Fund remains in fair condition for the two months, year-to-date, as Total Income for that period is \$5,200 less than budget while Total Expenses are about \$300 above budget. Income for March is looking much better but, we need to continue to support the church as best we can, individually.

# Parking Lot Task Force Update

There is continuing good news on this front (albeit still, as slow as molasses in January). Our Task Force met with our civil engineer and the contractor that will be doing the construction this past week. It appears that we will soon be observing the change in the terrain to the north of our building as grading will commence and

construction will be underway.

Continue to pray for the success of the project and that the weather will be favorable.

### **OUTREACH & GENEROSITY**

Beth Schmitz, Session Leader

### **Dinner at Fresh Start**

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 (4:30 at the church or 5:00 at Fresh Start) we will gather to deliver and serve a home cooked meal for the women at Fresh Start.

There are currently 38 women in residence at Fresh Start. As a church, we provide a hot, tasty meal that we prepare and serve to them. We also sit down and eat with the ladies where we get a chance to connect and listen. Dinners are provided every Tuesday in collaboration with other churches in the metro area.

Donations of time and money are appreciated for food prep and purchase.

### Cowles Elementary Garden Project

Rich Teig and Jody Cox were invited to a meeting organize the annual Cowles Garden Project. Please let Rich or Jody know if you are interested in helping with caring for the garden during the summer months.



### One Great Hour of Sharing --Special PCUSA Lenten Offering



Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

### Ways to Give:

- Through our congregation (please use envelope insert in the weekly bulletin)
- Online at <u>pcusa.org/give-oghs</u>
- Text OGHS to 91999 to give



### MINISTRY UPDATE

Rev. Cindy Ray, Parish Associate

### **God's Exciting Opportunities!**

I have been gone a lot for the past several months. Sundays have found me in places I never expected to be.

### **Preaching in Newton and Monroe Presbyterian Churches**

Last September I had my first opportunity to preach at United Presbyterian Church in Newton and they asked me to come back a couple of times. I was also asked to preach at Monroe Presbyterian Church. Both churches had lost their pastor by way of retirement, so they were going to need to fill their pulpits with supply every Sunday and I have been asked to fill these two churches on a regular basis. I have learned a lot of things.

I am now preaching regularly at these two churches, and I am beginning to know both of these congregations, which is helping me improve writing and delivering my sermons for them.

I also have the opportunity to help these congregations learn more about blind people and, to some extent, other disabled people, and I am gradually developing relationships with some of them.

### **Holy Week Services**

I will be preaching in Newton on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday and Monroe on Easter plus the following Sunday and am enjoying learning about their Holy Week traditions.

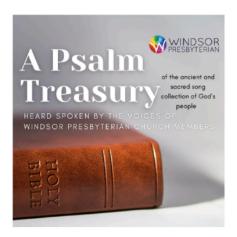
### Worshipping God and Growing Stronger in Faith

I miss everyone at Windsor when I am not there, but it is an amazing experience to go out, preach at other churches, and learn about their traditions, develop relationships with them, and together to worship God and grow stronger in our faith.

### **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

Natalie Steenson, Communications Shepherd

### It's Not Too Late to Add to our WPC Psalm Treasury!



Over the past year we have enjoyed developing our online Treasury of Psalms recorded by members of Windsor Presbyterian Church. We would like to continue to grow our Psalm Treasury to include **ALL** those who worship at WPC -- young and old alike! Those who have yet to record a Psalm can still do so. You can team up with someone else to jointly read a Psalm if you would want to. If you have questions, or are unsure of how best to do it, please contact Natalie or Shamaine to assist in the recording process or to determine what Psalms are still available.

If you'd like to record specific Psalms for the Easter Season, here are the ones that we would like to see done soon:

Psalm 4, 47, 93, 68, 116, 118

You can access the full online Psalm Treasury by clicking on the button below

**WPC Psalm Treasury** 



Dear Flock,

Since the last Churchmouse newsletter in October of 2024, much has happened in the church and in my life. Most of you know, I was in a bicycle accident on November 16, 2024 and sustained a traumatic brain injury. It is difficult to know what to write in this moment, but I thought it might be good to give you an update on my recovery and plans going forward.

### I'm So Grateful to All of You

I'm so grateful to the gracious time and space you have afforded me for my recovery. The love and care you have shown is overwhelming and humbling. I've really missed being with you all the last few months and am grateful I'm starting to be able to attend worship and other church events.

I'm learning new ways to do things that used to be second nature. Putting worship services together and writing sermons is really difficult and takes a lot of time. The recovery has been slower than I would like. For some of of you it probably seems like I should be 100% by now. I think that myself sometimes. This brain stuff is really challenging and strange.

### My Current Way of Being

I'd like to share a few thing, not to complain, but to give you a glimpse into my experience of the world right now. I have constant tinnitus and other sounds have taken on a texture I haven't experienced before. Organ music is excruciatingly loud and yet I've always appreciated that as part of the sacred experience of worship and hope it will pass soon. I still have to limit my time on the computer. I'm getting used to new glasses to help my eyes work together, which is also, evidently, a brain thing. I can take phone calls during the day, but long texts and emails are still REALLY difficult and likely to die in my inbox.

It's difficult for me to stay on track if an unexpected sight or sound happens. I just never know what is going to distract or overwhelm me—it's a moving target. I continually have to recalibrate and re-situate myself as visual or auditory stimuli come my way. I'd like to be more responsive in the moment and feel more natural, but I still have to plan simple things like where to stand, whether to hug, or how to respond to questions in the moment.

### My Hope for What's Next

I hope to be preaching 2-3 Sundays a month for now. I want to become more comfortable driving. I want to get back to being able to go to restaurants, movies, concerts, and pinball parties without having to run out with my hands over my ears. For now I am better off staying near my house and working alone so I avoid distractions that I can't come back from.

### Thankful for the Faithfulness of Our Flock

I'm just so very grateful for your continued love and care-the cards, letters, and gifts, as well as calls, visits, prayers, well-wishes, and good thoughts. I love all of you, and my gratitude for the gentleness and understanding you've been giving me is enormous. I have looked on in awe as people stepped in to make sure that my absence didn't impact the ministry of the church. One of the places this was most noticeable was in worship. You all saw the Revs. Jon Bailey, Cindy Ray, and Bob Culbertson step into the pulpit. They did so beautifully and graciously. I thank them for their faithful and able leadership.

Less visible and maybe more difficult, a team stepped in (and up) for the Herculean task of putting together weekly bulletins. Cindy Ray put together the order of worship. The wrote liturgy, chose hymns, put in lyrics, and even learned to code in things like bold and italics. Natalie Steenson proofread, edited, and added necessary information. The church secretary, Carol Heilman would get it into a bulletin format and

print copies. Shelley Mitchell would make the worship slides. Each had done pieces of this before my accident, but suddenly they had to figure out how to work together and do it all. It was a steep learning curve and I am so grateful for all their hard work and the MANY hours it has taken them to get a process that works. Now, I just have to try not to mess it up!

I am grateful beyond measure to all of you for your kindness and understanding and just love you all so much. Thank you for being the church together through this season. I can't wait to see what the Holy Spirit does with this congregation in the coming days!

Pastor Shamaine



# **January 2025 Worship**





















# **February 2025 CFUM**

# JG JG GOR V WN PERIAN PRESTREE PT





# **March 2025 Beginning of Lent**











Special thanks to Dwight Tomes for our photography.



### April Rain Song by Langston Hughes

(submitted by Angie King)

Let the rain kiss you

Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops

Let the rain sing you a lullaby

The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk

The rain makes running pools in the gutter

The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night

I love the rain

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### **Give Now**

### Online Giving Portal is managed by the Presbyterian Foundation

Thank you for the many ways you give: financially, in service, and in mission

Stay connected with WPC on Social Media!













### Session

Angie King, Krysta Tomes Class of 2026 Ron Grohe, Dana Mitchell Class of 2027 Laura Ward, Beth Schmitz Class of 2028 Dwight Tomes, Clerk

### **Board of Deacons**

Beth Mogle, Judy Teig Class of 2026 Sue Cooper, Shelly Weatherby Class of 2027 Lori Pope, Becky Young Class of 2028 Jim Newsom, Deacon for CFUM

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