

WMPC MONTHLY

WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | JULY 2019

Participation Counts

I have just welcomed my wife and sons home from a week away. They were not on a beach trip. They were not hiking the Appalachian Trail, though they were very near it. They were working in Johnson County, Tennessee with nearly 24 other WMPC youth and leaders on Appalachian Service Project. WMPC was recognized for 30 years of participation with ASP this summer. I couldn't be prouder of our Youth staff and adult volunteers over the last three decades. They are to be commended for their dedication.

While I believe the home repairs WMPC youth and adults offered the families of Johnson County will stand the test of time, I know the youth will never forget ASP. Every study ever conducted about life-long Christian devotion and church participation cites a significant service experience. I know our youth will never forget how giving their time improved the lives of others: participation counts.

While they were gone our 2019 Vacation Bible School took place - 300 children, youth volunteers, and adult leaders descended upon the church campus. The children learned about the power of God, the gifts of kindness, and serving others. I saw middle and high school kids leading much younger children through the week. For all ages involved - adults, youth, children - participation counted.

I write about participation because I worry about places and spaces in our ministry when participation lags. Too few of our children are in worship regularly. We know the reasons why: the convenience of Sunday school and worship at 9:30 together; parents who want to worship in a peacefulness that eludes them at home and all sorts of sports and arts activities that have seized Sunday as fair game. Too many of our youth disappear after Confirmation. We suspect for some confirmation feels like graduation from church school; high school is very busy and academically demanding; teens start to drive and have more freedom and more choices.

We know participation counts. If our children and teens are **not** present in places where there is worship, prayer, service, and generosity then how can we expect them as adults to practice them? If our children are not being immersed in the story of Jesus at least several times a month, how can we expect them to know that story when they are leading families of their own?

Summer at WMPC is a time of "beach erosion." Things slow down. We get it. But there are two exceptions: youth summer activities and VBS. I saw the power of deep participation in Christian faith in the life of WMPC this past month on behalf of our children and youth. I call upon the parents and grandparents of our church to help us do our best for our children and youth in aiding us in making sure that participation which counts is a mark of our church all the year through.

May grace abound,



Christopher Edmonston
Pastor



SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

8:15, 10:15 A.M.
SANCTUARY

10:15 A.M.
ONPOINT@1704
PICKARD HALL

FULL SUMMER
WORSHIP SCHEDULE
ON PAGE 14.

Ride the Shuttle!

Avoid the traffic around the church and ride the shuttle from Carolina Place, 2626 Glenwood Avenue, on Sundays. Shuttle service begins at 8:45 a.m. and continues until the 10:15 a.m. worship service concludes and everyone is back to their cars. Hayes Barton United Methodist operates a shuttle from the same location, so look for the WMPC sign in the shuttle bus window.

Church Office

Telephone Number:
919-834-3424

After Hours

Pastor On Call

Telephone Number:
919-605-4593

whitememorial.org

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE

in the manner of Christ

Jays & CONCERNS

IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Catherine Elaine Mull Jones – June 6, 2019

WMPC family members: husband, Steve Jones and daughter, Megan Jones

Kenneth “Ken” William Gaito – June 9, 2019

WMPC family member: wife, Lynn Gaito

Margaret “Betty” Lee Tobert – June 27, 2019

PRAYERS & CHRISTIAN CONCERNS TO

Cam Lewis, on the death of her brother, William Frank Lewis, May 27, Mt. Airy, NC.

Jan, David, Sam and Charles Stewart, on the death of Jan’s mother, Janice Wright Sedberry, June 10, High Point, NC.

Jim, Beth, Emily, Maggie, and Anna Collawn, on the death of Jim’s father, Thomas Herbert Collawn, June 10, Charlotte, NC.

Carl Stoddard and Robert Stoddard, on the death of Carl’s brother, William Stoddard, June 10, Clinton, SC.

Beth, Anthony and Cameron Blackman, on the death of Beth’s father, Thomas I. Hutchison, June 13, Greensboro, NC.

Ann and Harry Montgomery and Michael Montgomery, on the death of Ann’s brother, Lonnie Joseph Brown, June 17, Raleigh, NC.

MARRIAGES

Elizabeth Scothern Marlowe and Drewry Allen Littlewood, June 15, WMPC. Scottie is the daughter of “E” and Anderson Marlowe.

BAPTIZED

June 9 William Christopher Poole, child of Brooke and Tyler Poole, grandchild of Dorothea and Geff Bitler, and Claire Poole.

June 23 James Paul Baker, child of Catherine and James Baker, grandchild of Melinda and Paul Fox.

June 23 Carlyle Franklin Stewart, child of Jessica and Andrew Stewart, grandchild of Pam and George Clark.

NEW PRESBYTERIANS

Caroline Van Dyke Archie, born April 23, child of Meredith and Charles Archie.

Baker Teague Bowman, born May 24, child of Marianne and Andrew Bowman, grandchild of Susan and Daryl Bowman

Charles Cranford Clarke, born May 24, child of Amy and Penn Clark.

Claire Elizabeth Boerner, born May 25, child of Mary Ward and Chris Boerner, grandchild of Carolyn and Charles Younger.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Fran Carruthers, on the birth of grandchild, Alden Davis Embree, born May 31 to Kennedy and Mark Embree, Atlanta, GA.

Debbie and Bill Pappas on the birth of grandchild Penelope Homes McCall, born June 14, child of Caroline and Lathan McCall, Boston, MA.

Celeste and Robert Allen, on the birth of grandchild Robert Chapel Lowe, born June 17, child of Callie and Matt Lowe, Atlanta, GA.

If you have experienced a birth, marriage or death you want to share with the church, email Rebecca Turner at rturner@whitememorial.org. If you have a relative or church friend who is hospitalized, call the church office or email Amy Clapgood at aclapgood@whitememorial.org so our pastoral staff can reach out. If you have a pastoral care need outside of regular business hours, call our after hours pastor on call at 919-605-4593.

noteworthy

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A MEN’S/WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY/BREAKFAST ON TUESDAY, JULY 2.

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY.

Families are invited to worship together all summer. Our children’s Sunday School classes are taking a break until September 8. Nursery care will be available for babies and children through age 4.

BE SURE TO CHECK WWW.WHITEMEMORIAL.ORG TO CONFIRM ROOM NUMBER, DATE AND TIME OF ANY EVENT YOU ARE ATTENDING.



SATURDAY, JULY 6
GENEVA HALL
10-NOON

WMPC provides 70 sack lunches once a month for Raleigh Rescue Mission's

Sunday Sack Lunches program. All we need are willing hands to make and pack the lunches. Everything will be provided.

**SUMMER
COLLECTION
FOR GREEN
CHAIR**



Green Chair is in need of new and gently used twin and queen sized sheets and comforters. Donations can be taken Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and the first and third Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. to The Green Chair Project, 1853 Capital Blvd, Raleigh, NC, 27604.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The first bricks were placed on the new building last week! They look great and match our current facilities. The Luther renovation is under budget and on schedule. New floor installation will be installed soon with new cabinetry and a fresh coat of paint to follow. There will be more site work during the summer to make way for the playgrounds and the grease trap for the new kitchen. You can expect sidewalk closures and equipment offloading to take place on the building-side of Colonial Road during this time. The Knox roof will begin its replacement during the first week of July. Between the Knox and Luther roof replacements, we will have a perfect foundation for the solar panel installation this Fall. There will be much to celebrate come September – go Duke!

Andrew Amodei
Executive Director

SUMMER PREACHING SERIES



Morgan Riker, Artist

"...WITH ONE ANOTHER"

Sunday, July 7

"Forgiving each other."
Ephesians 4:32

Sunday, July 14

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."
1 Peter 4:9

Sunday, July 21

"Love one another."
1 John 4:7; 4:11 & 4:12

Sunday, July 28

"Confess your sins to each other." &
"Pray for each other."
James 5:16

Sunday, August 4

"Encourage each other." & "Build each other up."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Sunday, August 11

"Be patient, bearing with one another in love."
Ephesians 4:2

Sunday, August 18

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you."
Romans 15:7

Sunday, August 25

"Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10 &
"Live in harmony with one another."
Romans 12:16

Sunday, September 1

"Spur one another on toward love and good deeds."
Hebrews 10:24

This summer we are preaching through the many "each other" and "one another" texts in the New Testament. During Associate Pastor Cate Church Norman's Installation service this spring, the Pastor of Durham Presbyterian Church, Franklin Golden, read through all 59 of these and presented Cate with a piece of art (above) depicting them. They are as challenging as they are beautiful. Each of them serves as a snapshot of the behaviors which can define Christian life. We hope you find in them both deep meaning and authentic challenge as we encounter many of them in our worship this summer.

HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR PW STUDY GUIDE?

ORDER NOW!
BEGINNING MONDAY, JULY 15

\$10 or \$15 for large print

You can order online at
www.whitememorial.org/register
or mail payment to the church,
attn: Tonya Higgins.

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 30



ANGEL FOOD MINISTRY

Looking for a way to get involved at White Memorial? If you want to volunteer your time to deliver meals or simply like to cook, please consider giving your time to the Angel Food Ministry. We are part of Martha Ministry and we provide meals to church members in times of need. Contact Laura Bryant at lkcbyrant@gmail.com or 404-408-9085, or Jean Williams at jwilliams@whitememorial.org for more information about getting involved.



CANCER COMPANIONS MINISTRY

Cancer. It's a hard word. It's a harder disease. If you or a loved one is dealing with cancer, please consider finding out about our ongoing ministry called Cancer Companions. Our trained volunteers offer one-to-one support throughout the year where we encourage each other through videos, devotionals and inspiring stories of faith. For more information please contact: Jean Williams, Parish Nurse, 919-834-3425, ext. 234 or jwilliams@whitememorial.org or Jim Ferry, Parish Associate, 919-834-3425, ext. 208, jferry@whitememorial.org.



THANK YOU WHITE MEMORIAL!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our June *Fill the Truck!* Wake Relief collected 1,038 food items on June 16!

LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER (L.I.F.T.)

Consider the Birds

CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE INVITED FOR FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

Sunday | July 14 | 4-6 p.m. | Geneva Hall



How many birds are mentioned in the Bible?
What are their symbolic meanings?
Join us as we discuss *Consider the Birds* by Debbie Blue.
We will make bird feeders, enjoy other bird themed activities and share dinner together.

Children five and up along with adults of all ages will appreciate this intergenerational event.

Registration is required. \$5.00/person or \$15/family.

www.whitememorial.org/register



KIDS NIGHT OUT!

Parents, are you looking for a safe and fun night for your children packed with games, art, stories and delicious food? Would you appreciate an evening out on your own? If so, sign up for KIDS Night Out! Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyaqzdhs>.

A team of youth and adults at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church is planning several events this summer! Infants, toddlers, and children to Grade 5 are welcome! The registration fee is just \$5 per child with the option of adding a donation in support of West Raleigh's mission trips fund.

DATES AND THEMES:

July 20: Festivals of Light -
Celebrating Winter in the Heat of Summer!
August 17: Carnival



BUSY HANDS ARE HAPPY HANDS

Come join the Russia, Etc. Knit and Crochet on Tuesday, July 9 at 9:30 a.m. in C200. We have plenty of yarn, patterns, hooks and needles. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee, snacks and lots of conversation. Any questions call Faye Senter at 919-805-0897 or fsenter@bellsouth.net.

COMMUNITY ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE OF WHITE MEMORIAL

The Community Allocations Committee of White Memorial Presbyterian Church allocates funds given by the congregation to agencies in Wake County that provide for the needs of individuals and groups in the community where our church has strong commitment and involvement. While no precise definition is possible in assessing need, we consider agencies that attempt to provide basic needs, teach life coping skills, and promote self-sufficiency. The Community Allocations Application process begins in September of each year and awards are announced in February. All grant applications are due September 1. If you have questions contact Gloria Johnson, gjohnson@whitememorial.org. Applications can be found at whitememorial.org/community-grants.

Join Us For Our 11th Annual Midsummer Celebrations!



MIDSUMMER CELEBRATIONS REGISTRATION STILL OPEN!

August 12-15 | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | WMPC

- Midsummer Celebrations is an interfaith, multi-cultural program that includes Christian, Muslim, and Jewish children and leaders, as well as our sister churches along Oberlin Road.
- This fun program is our evening version of Vacation Bible School for 1st - 5th graders.
- Our *Friends All Around* activities will include a drum circle, skits, hip-hop, a scavenger hunt, games, recreation, a craft, music, kid-friendly dinners and fellowship.
- Registering on our website is easy, and the \$20 fee can be paid by credit card at whitememorial.org/children/summer-programs

If you have questions, please contact Lynn Springfield at lspringfield@whitememorial.org or 919-834-3425, ext. 232.

Opportunities for Adults to Grow in Faith Summer 2019

Worship Summer 2019:
8:15 & 10:15 - Sanctuary
10:15 - OnPoint @1704

Sunday Morning:

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CLASS

June 9 - August 11
9:15 - 10:00 a.m. | C200

Bill Jackson, teacher

Dr. Ray Vander Laan's video series *That The World May Know*. In a series of 20-minute videos, historian and teacher Dr. Vander Laan illustrates how the events of Jesus' day impacted his life, ministry and communication...and then you'll learn how it affects yours. Filmed on location in Israel, these Faith Lessons weave together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts. A structured discussion follows each video lesson.

GREATEST GENERATION

May 26 - September 1
9:15 - 10:00 a.m. | W400

Gary Mock, leader

Composed primarily of senior adults, this is a loving and faithful community open to anyone. The study vehicle is the quarterly resource *The Present Word*, which explores the biblical text and invites a relationship with God. A rotating group of class members moderate the class each week.

COVER TO COVER

July 14 and August 4
9:15 - 10:00 a.m. | C302

Jim Ferry, teacher

This Bible study is designed to read the entire Bible in one calendar year. New members are welcome every month of the year. The class is oriented around the calendar year.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUPS

Sunday starting June 2 | 9:30-10:00 a.m. | C203
Tuesday evening starting June 4 | 6-6:30 p.m.

Davidson Chapel

We are excited to announce two small groups meeting this summer. Centering Prayer groups will meet for 6 weeks beginning June 2. One group will meet on Sunday mornings 9:30-10:00 a.m. in C203; the other group will meet Tuesday evenings 6-6:30 p.m. in Davidson Chapel. We will gather quietly, a leader will begin the 20 minutes of silence, and we will end with The Lord's Prayer. All are invited; attend as you are able. RSVPs are requested so that we can make sure the space is set appropriately, but they are not required. If you have questions, please contact Melinda Fox at melindafox22@gmail.com. Register at www.whitememorial.org/register.

SPIRITUALITY CENTER

July 7 - August 25

8:15 a.m. - noon

Chapel and surrounding Calvin classrooms

Self-directed spiritual practice

(like walking the Labyrinth)

**All adults and children with an adult are welcome!

Sunday Afternoon:

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT - LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER (L.I.F.T.)

July 14 and August 11

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Geneva Hall

Tracey Daniel, Lynn Springfield and

Gwen Whiteman, teachers

Designed for children kindergarten and up and adults of all ages. Nursery provided with reservation.



SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES!

2019-2020 SOUNDS ON OBERLIN CONCERT SERIES

Sunday | September 29 | 2019 | 3:00 pm
Karl Zinsmeister, organ

Friday | October 25 | 2019 | 7:30 pm
Song Stylings from the Great American Songbook
UNC Jazz Faculty Quintet with
Grammy-nominated vocalist Kate McGarry

Sunday | December 15 | 2019 | 3:00 pm
Bach's Advent Magnificat

Sunday | March 15 | 2020 | 3:00 pm
Ariel Pocock Trio

Sunday | April 19 | 2020 | 3:00 pm
Denitsa VanPelt, piano

**Save the Date for this
community sponsored concert, too:**
Friday | February 21 | 2020 | 7:00 pm
National Lutheran Choir

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral | 15 Nazareth Street | Raleigh

**All concerts, unless otherwise noted,
are held in the Sanctuary.**
Admission is free.

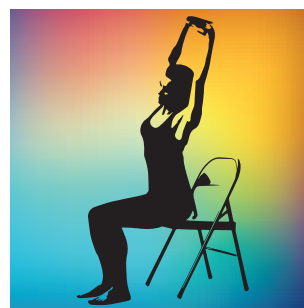
The Sounds on Oberlin concert series is a musical outreach endeavor of White Memorial Presbyterian Church that seeks to spiritually engage, vitally enrich, musically educate, and gloriously entertain the community through a set of high-quality, wide-reaching musical offerings. We believe that exposure to the unlimited joy of music will lift our spirits to soar above worldly concerns, with the ambition that these concerts will be both a benevolent and transformative experience.



LOOKING FOR A SUMMER READ? CHECK OUT THE LATEST TITLES IN THE CALDWELL LIBRARY

Two books by Rachel Held Evans, an "American Christian columnist, blogger, and author," recently mentioned by Grier Richards in her June 2 sermon and by Erin Duffy in her May 7 CaringBridge entry: *Searching for Sunday* and *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*.

Barbara Brown Taylor's newest book: *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Face of Others* is also available.



CHAIR YOGA

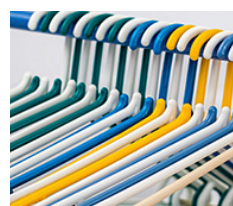
Yoga is for every body - all shapes, sizes and fitness levels can participate in chair yoga. Yoga is a practice in mindfulness, breathing and body awareness. Benefits can include better muscle strength, balance, and posture; improved heart, joint

and bone health; better mental focus and sleep. Movements can be modified to accommodate a range of abilities.

There will be two 8-week sessions this fall on Wednesdays from 10-11:00 a.m. in C200. Please contact Margie Mould at mmould@bellsouth.net for more information.

August 7 - September 25
October 16 - December 11

\$70 - both sessions
\$40 - each session
\$8 - drop in class



CLOTHING CLOSET CLOSED IN JULY

The closet will be closed in July, but will reopen August 7. We collect items on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thank you for your continued support. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please come by for a visit or call Cornelius Swart at 919-787-4720.

SUMMER WORSHIP - ORGAN ASSISTANTS

There are still spots available! Whether you are 7 or 107, have a musical background or don't know how to read a note, we invite you to be an organ assistant this summer. Now in its third year, this is an opportunity to sit with Dr. H or Dr. Z (Kirsten Homdrom and Karl Zinmeister) at the organ console, set up registrations (sounds), chime the trinity and more. Organ assistant spots will be offered through August 25. Sign up at <https://doodle.com/poll/8hydiin6m7ua8a99>.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to WMPC!

BELIEVING & BELONGING @ WMPC
MAY 5 & 12, 2019 CLASS



LEVI BANNERMAN

Levi is the newest member of the WMPC staff and joins us as the Assistant Director of Youth Ministry by certificate of transfer from Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Levi is engaged to Mary Katherine Clemens.



HALEY BAREFOOT

Haley joins by profession of faith and baptism. She is a nurse. Relatives in the church include her parents, Romy and Player Barefoot and siblings Slater and Will.



SLATER BAREFOOT

Slater, a student, joins by profession of faith and baptism. Relatives in the church include his parents, Romy and Player Barefoot and siblings Haley and Will.



ANDREW BOWMAN

joins WMPC by certificate of transfer from Providence Baptist Church. Andrew is in corporate finance. In addition to his wife, Marianne, other relatives in the church include Daryl and Susan Bowman; Heath and Kate Chapman, niece Kacky and nephews Wood and Mac Chapman.



MARY KATHERINE CLEMENS
joins WMPC by certificate of transfer from Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, NC. She is a teacher and engaged to Levi Bannerman.



ANNA AND BEN DINEEN
Anna joins by certificate of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC and Ben joins by certificate of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC. Anna is an interior designer and Ben is a commercial real estate developer. They have a nine month old daughter, Lula.



NITA LEACH
Nita joins by certificate of transfer from Woodland Baptist Church, Woodland, NC. She is an operations manager.



RAMSAY AND CARL YOUNGER
by certificate of transfer from Edenton Street United Methodist. Carl is an attorney. He and Ramsay have three children, sons Grayson and Tanner and daughter McKinley.

NEW MEMBERS ARE RECEIVED FOUR TIMES A YEAR,
AFTER A TWO-DAY *BELIEVING & BELONGING @WPMC* CLASS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.WHITEMEMORIALORG/JOIN OR
CONTACT ELIZABETH VIOHL AT 919-834-3425, EXT. 206 OR EVIOHL@WHITEMEMORIAL.ORG.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

IN REVIEW...

GLORY TO GOD, WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR BEYOND ALL THAT WE COULD ASK OR IMAGINE BY HIS POWER AT WORK WITHIN US! – EPHESIANS 3:20



Each time a child is baptized at White Memorial, our congregation stands and promises to guide and nurture the child by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Jesus Christ and to be faithful members of his church. Vacation Bible School is one of the most tangible, fun and meaningful ways that so many members of our church family live into that promise.

During the week of June 17-21, 213 children, 62 youth and 120 adult volunteers came together for an epic week at "To Mars and Beyond," where we became Voyagers and discovered how to serve God and God's mission for our lives. Each day we blasted off to Mars, where we were reminded to find Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness and Hope on our daily missions and in our everyday lives. God's power indeed can take us To Mars and Beyond!



Mornings included assemblies where Mission Commander Layton, Mission Pilot Johnson and EP3-20 (the coolest robot in space!) introduced the day's theme. Many thanks to pastors Christopher Edmonston and Tracey Daniel for sharing time with us at our outpost in the Astro Zone. We are also grateful for our Chief Musical Officer Kirstin Homdrom who lifted us up with amazing music and to our chief Dramatic Officer Lee Baker as well as our fourth and fifth graders who did an amazing job of acting out our daily Bible stories. It is an epic experience to see God's love working through our children!



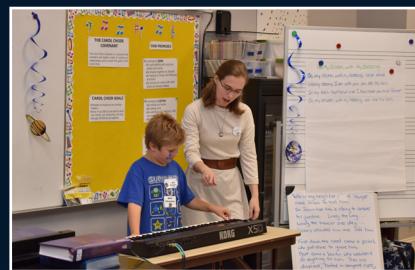
All around our church campus, our children explored art, music, musical movement, recreation and science stations that reinforced our Bible stories. On Friday morning, the fourth and fifth graders traveled to Morningside to sing hymns and spend time in fellowship with the elderly residents, lovingly giving of their time and gifts.



For our service project, we partnered with Meals on Wheels of Wake County Meals, a program that delivers meals to individuals at home who are unable to purchase or prepare their own meals. Our Voyagers packed over 200 breakfast bags that will be delivered to Meals on Wheels participants. In addition, our third through fifth grade Voyagers packed over 100 post-workout bags for participants of Haven House, a program that provides community-based services to at-risk youth and their families.

It was an out-of-this-world week at our church, and we give thanks for each of the children who participated, the youth helpers who so enthusiastically gave of their time and energy, and all of the adult volunteers who poured out their love to these children and youth helpers, guiding and nurturing them. We are blessed!





THANK YOU TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE VBS 2019 A SUCCESS!

Next year's Vacation Bible School, directed by Olivia Edwards and Emy Hanson, is planned for June 15-29, 2020.

Join us for another great week of growing in faith together!

Questions?

Contact Lynni Springfield at 919-834-3425, ext. 232, or lspringfield@whitememorial.org



WMPC Supported Mission Partners

PRESBYTERIAN PEACEMAKERS - AL AND ELLEN SMITH (MISSION CO-WORKERS SERVING IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE)

Below is an excerpt from Ellen and Al Smith's newsletter article, *It's Complicated*.

To read the entire article visit

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/its-complicated/>

Just after Easter (Western calendar), a small group gathered in Minsk, Belarus, to begin a journey together through Belarus, Ukraine and Russia on the theme of peacemaking — a travel study seminar sponsored by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. It has been five years since the war broke out in the Donbass region of Ukraine, that wedge of land in the southeast corner of Ukraine on the border of Russia. It is a wound that doesn't heal. But the conflicts within this region are not limited to Donbass. There has been interchurch conflict within Ukraine that dates back decades and is complicated by the Orthodox understanding of protocol. The nationalism that has infected the globe has inflamed the situation in and between Ukraine and Russia as well.

Seeking greater understanding of the complexities of the multiple and interconnected conflicts and seeking out peacemakers, we set out from Minsk, neutral ground, planning to return there for reflection, gathering at the table voices from Ukraine and from Russia, hoping for conversation that would bring some clarity. We were not sure such a conversation would even be possible. Since the beginning of the planning process a year and a half ago, the situation has evolved in unexpected ways.

Getting ready for this trip, I was not sure that anyone would want to talk to us in the midst of all the complications, but to my surprise, everyone wanted the chance to share their

piece of the story. Not only that, but they helped me make connections with people of differing perspectives. I have discovered the network of peacemakers, and they give me hope. We spoke to many of them, and they helped us unpack the history just a little and recognize the pain that is behind the conflicts, as well as the pain that aggravates the conflicts today. The painful history of Soviet times is intertwined, and it too is complicated. The break in relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate means that people within the now two Ukrainian Orthodox churches cannot share communion.

So, what does it mean to be a peacemaker? How do we pursue this call? Peacemaking involves giving people a voice, allowing them to speak the truth they know. It involves intentional listening and resisting the urge to react. Peacemaking requires us to recognize societies' tendency to demonize the other, to recognize that tendency in ourselves, and to take the time to find the humanity in the other. Peacemaking requires the courage to speak the truth with love. Peacemaking is about the little things that help individuals heal and find their own steps forward.

We lost a great peacemaker this past month. I find Jean Vanier's words a guide to who we are called to be: "Each human being, however small or weak, has something to bring to humanity. As we start to really get to know others, as we begin to listen to each other's stories, things begin to change. We begin the movement from exclusion to inclusion, from fear to trust, from closedness to openness, from judgment and prejudice to forgiveness and understanding. It is a movement of the heart."



Participants in the concluding consultation in Minsk.

**White Memorial Russia Ministry is planning trips to Russia in 2020.
If you are interested in learning more please contact Lydia Pickard at Lydia.Pickard@yahoo.com.
Look for more interesting facts about Russian culture in future bulletins.**



WEEKLY YOUTH EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Do you want to receive the weekly youth email newsletter that's full of great information? Contact Deb Smith at dsmith@whitememorial.org to be added to the contact list.

- Montreat Youth Conference
July 28-August 3
9:00 a.m. Check-in
Lower Dover Parking Lot

LOOKING AHEAD

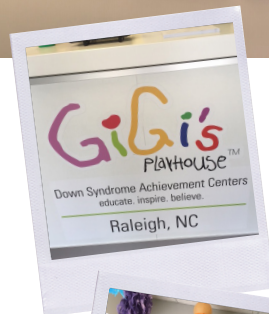
- Middle School
Asheville Mission Trip
August 4-9
- Youth Summer Forum
All are invited to hear stories from the youth of summer trips.
August 25. 11:15 a.m.
Pickard Hall
- Confirmation Kick Off
8th grade students & parents
September 8, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Confirmation Commissioning
September 8, 11:00 a.m.
- Youth Ministry Kick Off
All parents and youth are invited. Bring your calendar!
September 8, 5-7:00 p.m.
- High School Beach Retreat
September 28-29
Online Registration opens July 1
- Middle School Fall Retreat
October 4-6
Online Registration opens July 1



Gigi's Playhouse

GiGi's Playhouse is a Down Syndrome Achievement Center. Since 2016, it has changed lives in the Raleigh area. Its programs are for children and adults with Down Syndrome and the space has provided an important place for parents, siblings, and grandparents to come and support each other. GiGi's Playhouse provides purposeful, progressive programs for individuals of all ages with signature therapeutic programs, literacy and math 1:1 tutoring programs, speech and language services, and summer camp programs. All programs are offered at no cost to families.

Jason Gold, WMPC member, serves on the board and the Community Allocations Committee provided \$1,000.00 in support for 2019.



SUMMER WORSHIP 2019 AT WMPC

(Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend)

SUNDAY, JULY 7, HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (WITH COMMUNION)

8:15 Sanctuary | 10:15 Sanctuary/Integrated OnPoint

SUNDAYS JULY 14, 21, 28; AUGUST 4 (WITH COMMUNION) 11, 18, 25

8:15 Sanctuary | 10:15 Sanctuary | 10:15 OnPoint

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (WITH COMMUNION)

8:15 Sanctuary | 10:15 Sanctuary/Integrated OnPoint

FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP TOGETHER ALL SUMMER.

OUR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE TAKING A BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER 8.

NURSERY CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN THROUGH AGE 4.

SCHEDULE OF FOUR WORSHIP SERVICES RESUMES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

upcoming events

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Church facilities closed in observance of the Fourth of July holiday

FRIDAY, JULY 5

Church facilities closed in observance of the Fourth of July holiday

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Let's Do Lunch

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Let's Do Lunch

MONDAY, AUGUST 12-

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Midsummer Celebrations

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Church facilities closed in observance of Labor Day

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Spaghetti Supper

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Keenagers

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Show Up & Serve

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Kick-Off Sunday

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Generosity Campaign Begins

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

PW Circles and Luncheon

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Believing & Belonging @WMPC

New Members Class

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Believing & Belonging @WMPC

New Members Class

Sounds on Oberlin Concert

Karl Zinsmeister, organ