One year ago, Easter was filled with the joy of returning to live worship at Westminster after a year of isolation due to Covid. I remember the logistical concerns we discussed—what would be allowed and how we could move forward safely. There was a strict limit placed on the number of worshippers we could have in the sanctuary, but we were enthused to be together nevertheless. So much so, that at one point, we drafted a plan to hold five live worship services throughout the day so that as many people could attend as possible! We were wise to scale back after giving it more thought. Still, it is a small, behind-the-scenes reflection of the excitement of our staff as we imagined communal worship again.

Our enthusiasm for gathering together has only grown since. We look forward to the richness that Holy Week and Easter will bring this time around, cognizant of all the ways in which our world has changed over the past year. Our Lenten reflection on “Belonging in the Silence” and the disciplines of prayer, study, self-examination, focus, and letting go will lead us to the crux and literally, the cross, of the season.

We begin on Palm Sunday, moving from the Triumphal Entry and waving of palm branches to a reading of the Passion story with music from Westminster’s Chamber Choir. On Maundy Thursday, the Rev. David Shinn will lead us through noon worship in the chapel, accompanied by Kenny Vigne. Our 6 pm service in Westminster Hall features Voices of Sepharad, a trio that will offer music from a Jewish cultural tradition which originated in Medieval Spain, and Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen will preach. At the heart of this service are the rituals of communion and hand-washing, as we remember Jesus’s last supper with his disciples. On Good Friday we will reflect on Jesus’s Seven Last Words with guest preachers and musicians, in collaboration with the Greater Minneapolis Community Connection. On Holy Saturday, the Revs. Tim and Beth Hart-Andersen will offer a morning prayer service in the quiet of Westminster’s chapel.

Easter begins with the long-time favorite Gospel Sunrise Service in Westminster Hall, with Thomasina Petrus and Thom West, followed by two traditional services with organ, brass, and choral music in the Sanctuary at 9 and 11 am. The Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen will preach at all Easter services and the 11 am service will include baptism.

We look forward to returning not only to a Westminster Easter in full force, but with the added online community that has been built over the last two years. Together, we are the church.
Creating a Financially Sustainable Future
by Kelsey Crouch-Dodson, Director of Stewardship

The Open Doors Open Futures campaign began 10 years ago with early “seed” gifts. As the project developed, the congregation committed itself to raise 75 percent of the funds in an initial campaign and to finance the remaining 25 percent to be repaid later. The project broke ground in 2016 and was completed in 2018.

The first campaign resulted in $65 million in pledges. The funds supported mission ($8m) and a building expansion that doubled Westminster’s footprint in the city. The project added 50,000 square feet to the church building, 300 underground parking stalls, and two public green spaces. The expanded facility has enhanced church worship, education, and on-site ministries, such as St. David’s Center and the Westminster Counseling Center. The addition also greatly increased the church’s engagement with the community and helped Westminster thrive during the pandemic. The upgraded technology and new, flexible rooms have allowed for easy livestreaming capabilities and better ventilation, which enables people to gather safely.

Now it is time to tackle the outstanding 25 percent of our campaign. Session has approved a committee to lead a second campaign that will conclude and celebrate Open Doors Open Futures. Multiple Learning & Listening sessions will be held in the spring to provide an opportunity to learn more about the campaign and gather feedback from the congregation, including about the mission component of this campaign. Stay tuned for more information to participate in these sessions!

The work of Westminster is not done. Freeing the church from financial obligations will help ensure Westminster continues to be a vibrant telling presence in the city, sharing God’s hope for a just, loving, joyful, sustainable, and peaceful world for generations to come.

The Power of Redemption
An Interfaith Conversation

This spring and next, Passover, Ramadan, and Easter coincide. After 2023, this will not happen again for another 33 years. To mark this shared season of redemption, the downtown Minneapolis congregations have planned two events this year.

Panel Discussion | Sunday, April 3 | 4–6 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church | Rev. DeWayne Davis
A panel of clergy will convene to discuss Redemption from each of our religious traditions. In-person and virtual participants will have the opportunity to reflect on our own experience of redemption and ask questions to the panelists.

Interfaith Service | Sunday, April 10 | 4–5:30 pm
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church | Rev. Elijah McDavid III
We will gather for a redemptive worship service with a blend of song and inspiration from each of our religious traditions.

Westminster Announces New Controller
by Nicole Cueno, Senior Director of Operations and Administration

I am excited to announce that after an extensive search, Faye Field has been named the new Controller.

Faye’s professional experience includes several years in public accounting working for CliftonLarsonAllen, in Washington, D.C. and Denver, where she focused on nonprofit clients. Also while in Colorado, Faye worked at Imagine!, a nonprofit that specializes in programming and activities for adults with developmental disabilities. Faye returned to Minnesota in 2020 to be closer to family and has since worked as a Senior Accountant at North Memorial Health. Faye has a bachelor’s degree in Accounting from the University of St. Thomas and is in the process of working toward her CPA license.

It was a delight to move through the interview process with Faye. She was a clear standout from the start. I am looking forward to working with Faye to build our new accounting team at Westminster.

Faye shared, “I am so excited to join the team and support the wonderful work of the organization! I was born and raised in Minnesota, so I look forward to bringing that pride and energy to my position as the church and city continue to evolve from the events of the last several years. My husband and I have been together for 13 years (and have known each other since second grade!), and we have two children: Kylian (3) and Edith (3 months). We love to spend time outdoors and look forward to many camping trips this summer.”

Faye began her new position March 21.
Dear friends,

With Lent winding down, spring finally emerging, Holy Week approaching, and the pandemic quickly losing steam, this feels very much like a “threshold time.” We are on the cusp of new life together. The dawn is coming!

That’s true every Easter, of course, but this year will be the first time since Holy Week of 2019 – three years ago! – that we have gathered in Westminster’s sanctuary to celebrate the empty tomb and Jesus’ victory over death. We have been building toward this season for a long time. While I am cautious about making too much of the resurrection theme with possible new Covid waves coming, it will be wonderful to lift our voices Easter song on April 17 – accompanied by brass!

Pundits and pastors have been speculating on whether people will return to worship in significant numbers, post-pandemic. Time will tell. Surveys suggest that declining participation in church will have been accelerated by being away from worship for two years. Isolation will take a toll; new habits and patterns will have an impact. And much is made of the steep drop in religious affiliation of millennials already underway pre-pandemic.

If we are not careful, we will start to think the sky is falling for American churches.

To state the theologically obvious, the church is not simply another social organization to be studied. It is not merely another non-profit that exists for a time and then closes its doors. It is the Body of Christ. The church lives because Jesus lives, not because we have stumbled onto the latest technique or some clever marketing strategy.

The macro statistical trends do not need to determine our micro-life as a congregation. We are not passive observers, but active participants in joining with the Holy Spirit in animating the church. God is at work among us and in the community around us. Our job is to catch up!

We see the Spirit moving every Sunday that we have been back in person. We meet people each week who have been with us online but have never set foot inside the facility. We greet visitors drawn here by word of mouth, the Westminster Town Hall Forum, our outreach in the city or music and the arts, or by invitation.

I look forward to celebrating Easter with you, crossing the threshold together. See you in church – in person or online!

Grace and peace,

Tim
Men’s Spring Retreat  
**Saturday, April 23 | 8:30 am-noon | Courtyard and Meisel Room**  
The 2022 Men’s Spring Retreat is upon us. Our speaker this year is the Rev. Phil Romine, the Congregational Engagement Coordinator for Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. Phil is excited to speak to us about how our men’s ministry can progress forward in this time of prolonged pandemic, and racial reckoning. Come and join us on April 23 from 8:30 am to noon. We’ll start with breakfast in the Courtyard and move to the Meisel Room for conversation. Please contact the Rev. David Shinn (dshinn@wpc-mpls.org) for more information and to register.

Earth Day Joint Forum  
**Sunday, April 24 | 9:15 am | Westminster Hall**  
Westminster’s Social Justice Forum and Adult Education resume with a joint forum focused on ecological justice the Sunday before Earth Day. We will welcome Dr. Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MN IPL) and students from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs who are working with MN IPL to respond to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP26. As they prepare for COP27, MN IPL and the Humphrey students are exploring a human rights framework focused on damage to global and Minnesota communities.

Legacy Sunday  
**Sunday, May 1 | 11:30am | Westminster Hall**  
This year we will recognize Legacy Circle members in Westminster Hall after the 10:30 am worship. The Legacy Circle is comprised of those who have remembered Westminster in their will or financial plan and informed the church of their intention. Legacy Circle members will learn more about Legacy Sunday in the following weeks. In the meantime, please mark your calendars!

If you have included Westminster in your bequest or have questions about how you can make a legacy gift, please contact Kelsey Crouch-Dodson, Director of Stewardship (kcrouchdodson@wpc-mpls.org).

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**WPC Happenings**

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**Daily Phone Devotions**

**612.332.7087**

**April**

1. Psalm 126
2. Philippians 3:4b-14
3. John 12:1-8
4. Psalm 20
5. Judges 9:7-15
7. Isaiah 50:4-9a
9. Philippians 2:5-11
11. Psalm 36:5-11
12. Isaiah 49:1-7
14. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
15. Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
17. Acts 10:34-43
18. 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
19. Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
22. Psalm 150
23. Revelation 1:4-8
24. John 20:19-31
25. Psalm 122
26. Revelation 2:8-11
27. Luke 12:4-12
28. Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
29. Psalm 30
30. Revelation 5:11-14

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**IN MEMORY 2022**

Curt Gilmore  
February 15

Michael Wood  
February 19

Karen Haan  
March 4

Whitney MacMillan, Jr.  
March 13

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Ash Wednesday Services, March 2, 2022
The Magnet is Expanding!
by Angelique Kingsbury, Program Coordinator, The Magnet

When the Skyway Senior Center closed in 2017 after a decade of serving the downtown senior population, library and church leaders stepped in. Recognizing the importance of providing spaces for older adults to gather, The Magnet senior program was born. Staffed and sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Minneapolis Central Library, activities centered on growth, movement, creativity, and education.

COVID-19 disrupted the flow of programming, but not the mission to serve. Weathering changes related to the pandemic, The Magnet carried on using creative ways to stay connected.

We recently expanded the center’s hours and days to include more time for seniors to socialize, learn, exercise, and create. The Magnet now offers programs four days a week with morning and afternoon hours – Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am-noon, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1-4 pm. Slow and steady, with careful consideration, we are holding space for in-person educational presentations and social enrichment, including movie days and seasonal celebrations. We are committed to our guests’ safety and well-being.

We are also bringing the core pillars of our program directly to where seniors reside, starting with a monthly program hosted at Salvation Army’s Booth Manor Senior Housing in the Loring Park neighborhood.

Our senior friends are people who bring a broad range of life experiences and perspectives. They are productive and whole members of society who should be remembered and included. Justice means reducing isolation, despair, and depression. Justice is when everyone can live their golden years with dignity. Our vision is one of collaboration as we reconnect and form new partnerships with visionaries who understand the importance and value of age-friendly communities. Thank you for supporting this work.

April Third Age Forum: An Introduction to Podcasts
by Duane Lookingbill

In the April Third Age Forum, we will explore the topic of podcasting. While some of us have incorporated podcasts into our everyday life, many may benefit from an introduction to this newer form of broadcast journalism.

The term podcast was invented in 2004. For many of us, podcasting may appear daunting and puzzling with its matrix of technologies, variety of sources and uses, and similarities and differences with other social media.

Westminster’s Scholar for Adult Education Matt Skinner will introduce us to the experience of podcasts from the perspective of learning its use for educational and faith-formation purposes. He will answer our many questions such as: How are podcasts produced, and why are they so popular? How do we find and listen to podcasts? Matt will familiarize us with podcasting, opening us up to this new way of exploring the world today.

Please register on Realm to join us for this discussion on April 13, 2022, via livestream or in-person at the Meisel Room, 11 am to noon, with time for question and answer during the hour, and fellowship after the hour.

Macalester Sunday April 24

Westminster welcomes two chaplains from Macalester for Macalester Sunday. Chaplain and Associate Dean, Rev. Kelly Stone, and Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life, Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman, will preach during the 10:30 am worship. They will share perspectives on religious life in America, particularly on a liberal arts college campus like Macalester.

Westminster celebrates Macalester Sunday annually the week following Easter. Presbyterians began Macalester College, and other education institutions, to teach the values of critical thinking, excellence in education, and service to the broader society. Westminster pastors and members routinely serve on the Macalester Board of Trustees as a mark of this historic relationship.
Building Your Parent-Caregiver Community at Westminster
by Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Family Ministries

Westminster offers several ways for parents and caregivers to build their own community at church, just as their children are building theirs. Join whenever your schedule allows – you are always welcome! Contact Marie (mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org) for more information about current family offerings:

- **Family Matters | Sundays, 9:15-10:15 am | Nursery Toddler Room** – Family Matters is a place of welcome and connection for Westminster parents and caregivers with children of all ages, who are looking to build community at church. We discuss a variety of parenting topics and consider them through the lens of our faith, seeking to provide both support and information.
- **Moms Group | Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 am | Zoom** – Moms with children of any age are invited to be a part of Westminster’s Moms Group. Our intent is to provide time and space for conversation and fellowship as well as a place to be mindful of our own spirituality.
- **Moms “Off the Clock” | First Thursday of the Month, 9–10 pm | Zoom** – Moms “Off the Clock” is a time for moms not to be actively parenting, to be “off duty,” so to speak. Our focus is on casual, cozy conversation from the comfort of your own home (at least for now).
- **Dads Group | First Tuesday of the Month, 6:30 pm | Westminster** – Men’s Ministries offers a Dads Group for dads with kids of any age. The group typically meets monthly for a time of fellowship and a meal, subject to COVID-19 precautions. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 pm. Contact Eric Chapin (echapin@hotmail.com) for more information.

Plans to Re-open the Nursery
by Marie Kruskop, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Family Ministries

Last month Church School returned to Westminster, and it was so good to see and hear so many children back in the building! There was much joy, energy, and gratitude! However, there is still one group that remains to be able to return safely to the church and that is Nursery-aged children.

Our Nursery Reopening Team paused for a bit, as we awaited the latest news about vaccines for our littlest ones. We met again in mid-March and have made plans to move forward. We will post the Nursery Coordinator position in early April and hope to have someone in place by early summer. That person will then have time to prepare the Nursery, both physically (e.g., a deep clean and inspection of toys and materials) as well as programmatically (e.g., curriculum review and supplemental enhancements and materials). Further, new Nursery caregivers, both paid and volunteer, will need to be identified and trained. It is our hope to have the Nursery ready to receive children up through age 3 no later than Coming Together Sunday on September 11.

Please continue to hold this team in prayer as we continue our work. Contact Marie Kruskop (mkruskop@wpc-mpls.org), Coordinator of Early Childhood and Family Ministries, or Alexandra Jacob (ajacob@wpc-mpls.org), Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children, with questions or concerns.
Youth Ministry Update
by Alexandra Jacob, Associate Pastor of Families, Youth & Children

The search for our next Director of Youth Ministries is officially underway, and I am eager to see where the Spirit leads! The position is posted online (westminstermpls.org/contact/job-postings), and we will begin interviews this month. The search team members are: Jacque DeBuse, Jim and Mary Gaulke, Brent Hall, Sarah Hardy, Alexandra Jacob, Natalie Letnes, Thomas Halverson, and Ann Rainhart.

Families, Youth, and Children Volunteer Celebration
by Sonja Dziekciowski, Director of Children’s Ministry

Church School will end on May 22 this program year. Please join us in honoring our incredible volunteers during the 10:30 service, along with a celebration following that service out on the Westminster Green.

Day Camp 2022: “Llove” Your Neighbor
by Sonja Dziekciowski, Director of Children’s Ministry

Calling all families of students who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade. Registration for Day Camp is open! Early bird discounts run until April 1 and registration closes on May 1.

Day Camp will be held from June 13-17, and we will focus on caring for our neighbors by being in community with the Magnet Senior Center, learning about our unsheltered neighbors, touring the St. David’s facility, and by focusing on sustainable ways to care for our neighbors by caring for our local environment.

Mornings will be filled with music, games, storytelling, and art, in and around the church. Afternoons will include outings to metro area parks for swimming and playing. Monday afternoon, we will kick off our adventure by visiting a llama farm. On Friday, our week will end at Baker Park, where we will learn about that ecosystem and celebrate nature.

Throughout the course of this pandemic, our volunteers have gone above and beyond, living out the baptismal promise made to the children of Westminster. They have joined numerous Zoom meetings, masked up for in-person Sunday evenings with middle schoolers and high school students, and planned Zoom Bake-Offs, led online Scavenger Hunts, worked on service projects, and creatively crafted weekly Church School Zoom meetings.

Our FYC team is filled with gratitude and awe for the level of dedication our volunteers have shown over this wild program year. If you are interested in joining our wonderful community of volunteers, please contact Alexandra Jacob (ajacob@wpc-mpls.org).

Youth Retreat: 24 youth and four adult leaders traveled to the Mount Olivet Retreat Center in March for our annual senior high spring retreat. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, food, and formation!
Caring for the Caregivers
by Pat Stankovitch, Deacon and Westminster Member

While caregiving can be a privilege, it can also result in conflicting emotions, exhaustion, and isolation. Westminster’s Caregiver Support Group provides an opportunity to meet other caregivers and take away renewed energy and strength for the journey. This is not a therapy group. Members share experiences and provide support for one another during what can be a stressful time. If you are providing ongoing care for someone in your life, consider giving yourself the gift of self-care by joining us on the last Saturday of each month from 10-11:30 am. We currently meet online. This ministry is also open to non-members. If you know someone in the community who you think might be interested in caregiver support, please feel free to refer them to this group.

Many caregivers report problems with their sleep. Here are some tips (from various sources) to help:

• Do not use your bed for watching TV, phone calls, or reading.
• Turn off electronic devices one hour before bedtime.
• Follow the same bedtime routine every night – e.g., breathing exercises, followed by washing your face, followed by teeth brushing, etc.
• In bed, think of five good things that happened that day.
• If not asleep in 30 minutes, get out of bed, go to a different room, and engage in something that will not make you less sleepy (might be reading, listening to music, drinking warm milk). Once you feel sleepy, immediately go to bed.
• If anxious, do paced breathing – have your exhale be longer than your inhale.

For more information about the Caregiver Support Group, contact Pat Stankovitch at ps10632@comcast.net or Rev. David Tsai Shinn at dshinn@wpc-mpls.org.

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Upcoming Mia Art Tour
by Elizabeth Winga

This April, Westminster’s Adult Education Ministry will collaborate with the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) to offer an art tour based on the book The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich. The Pulitzer-prize winning title was Westminster’s chosen selection for the All-Church Book Read in January. The novel will come alive in new ways as we explore contemporary and traditional art forms created by Indigenous Americans. Discover how the past and the present intertwine to tell Indigenous stories. We will discuss themes of identity, survival, and environmental issues. Viewing these poignant, yet beautiful art objects will enrich participants’ appreciation of the ways that Indigenous artists have woven their beliefs and life experiences into these exquisite visual forms.

Westminster member and Mia Art Guide Elizabeth Winga will guide the tour on Sunday, April 24 at 1 pm. Participation will be limited to 15 people. Learn more and register on Realm or email Mahin Hamilton at mhamilton@wpc-mpls.org.

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One Great Hour of Sharing 2022: Repairers of the Breach
by Alanna Simone Tyler, Associate Pastor for Justice and Mission

God has called this congregation to see ourselves as repairers of the breach (Isaiah 5:8). One of the ways we respond to this call is through our support of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering. Through our relationship with programs of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) we are repairing the brokenness beyond our immediate reach. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDOP) are the three programs supported by OGHS. Through these programs we join other congregations of the PCUSA in supporting acts of charity and justice for people in our country and around the world.

Continued on next page
To the Cross and Beyond
by Rodney Allen Schwartz, Director, Westminster Gallery and Archive

The 40 days and nights of Lent seem to me a time just like Advent. We are waiting for something big, something significant and life-changing to occur. They are extended periods of time within the liturgical calendar that require quiet contemplation and anticipation. One the birth of the Christ child; the other his death and resurrection.

My thoughts during Lent tend to focus primarily on the events of Holy Week. Washing the feet, the last supper, prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus’ crucifixion and burial. I leave the joy of Easter for that later day. Maybe meditation on the somber beginning of the story is more profound when the happy ending is set aside for later.

Creating an exhibition that chronicles the unfolding turn of events of Lent and Easter necessarily includes both Holy Week in all its unpleasant and even gory detail, as well as the triumphant resurrection and ascension into heaven.

No matter how you approach the days and week ahead, I invite you to include one or several visits to the Westminster Gallery and the exhibition To the Cross and Beyond as part of your Lenten journey.

As we witness from a distance the unfolding war and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, we are encouraged PDA, on our behalf, activated its network of relationships to provide emergency humanitarian relief to the people of Ukraine in the form of food, shelter, medicine and hygiene items.

On different fronts, PHP and SDOP are also working on behalf of Westminster and other congregations to alleviate hunger, uproot the systemic causes of poverty, and develop asset-based partnerships with economically poor communities. Through PHP, for example, 106 community gardens and greenhouses were created in Palestine, Cameroon, Haiti, and Bolivia. Through SDOP, the Diné people of the Navajo Nation receive support as they organize to address the contamination of their land, air, and ground water from uranium mining and milling.

Our support for PDA, PHP, and SDOP programs facilitates healing and repair for communities in the United States and around the world devastated by human caused and natural disasters. Thank you for generously supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. We will receive it on Palm Sunday, April 10.

Continued from prior page

Every gift makes a difference in the life of someone who deserves God’s love and support.

Rolling the Stone, by Joan Bohlig, etching, 1976
The Bible Then and Now: Abundant Life in the Gospel of John
by Matthew Skinner, Scholar for Adult Education

FIVE MONDAYS April 18, May 2, 9, 16, 23; 7-8:30 pm
Hybrid Format: In the Garden Room and via Zoom

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”
—Jesus, in John 10:10

The Bible sets the stage for our lives together. Reading it with others reminds us of the issues that ought to concern us, and it gets us talking about our faith’s ability to influence our ways of living, thinking, and relating.

During Eastertime, when the church considers new life and its implications for how we live now, gathering around the Gospel according to John can help us expand our imagination about what God desires for each of us and the human family. John, the most distinctive of the four Gospels, pulses with stories of abundance, surprise, and God’s intimate devotion to us. Its symbolism and storytelling provide a feast for the senses that has influenced many Christian hopes, promises, and rituals.

On five Monday evenings through the Easter season, we will explore portions of John that focus on that book’s compelling view of life, connection to God, and human flourishing. Join me for this new installation of the “The Bible Then and Now” program. You can participate in person in the Garden Room or online simultaneously via Zoom. Please register in advance, by using the Realm platform or by emailing me (mskinner@wpc-mpls.org). For more information, visit the website.
This past December, Adult Education was delighted to host Austen Hartke for a two-part series on “Getting Curious About Gender Diversity” during Advent. Austen Hartke is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, a book on theology and personal narratives published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2018. He is also the founder and director of Transmission Ministry Collective, an online community dedicated to the spiritual care, faith formation, and leadership potential of transgender and gender-expansive Christians.

The two-part series was dynamic and deeply engaged the audience. Knowing how much we can learn from each other across different generational experiences of gender, participants requested Austen return for an intergenerational series. In collaboration with WestConnect and Families, Youth, and Children’s Ministries, Adult Education is happy to present a longer series in May comprised of three sessions on: Unpacking the Gender Clobber Verses, Celebrating Gender Diversity in Scripture, and Trans Allyship for Churches.

Each of the three ministries represented is excited for this opportunity to learn and talk together about this important topic.

“In the Westminster youth groups, we work hard to honor and respect one another, recognizing that we all are beloved children of God – no qualifications, no exceptions. As we installed Westminster’s expansive Pride flag outside the church building this past summer, we reflected on questions of identity and allyship. We pledged with our words and our actions to honor one another’s belovedness and support one another in word and deed, especially those among us and in our broader community who self-identify as trans. We continue to learn and grow together, committed to showing up for one another,” says Alexandra Jacob, Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children.

Meghan Gage Finn, Executive Associate Pastor who supports young adult ministries says, “We know that the words we use have value and meaning, especially the words we use as people of faith in Christian community. Being an ally isn’t about having all the right words or the right answers but about creating space across the church through our language and our actions for individuals to feel safe, welcome, and supported. Trans allyship reflects a love that is as inclusive and expansive as God’s love is for everyone.”

We invite anyone and everyone to join us in May. Please look on our website for more information on this series as we get closer to May.