

The CORNERSTONE

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A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church - An ECO Congregation

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Help Our Egg-Stravaganza!

Our Annual Family Easter Event & Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 23, 10 A.M. to noon, at North Beaver Township Park. (See details on back cover!)

Donations of candy and/or FILLED Easter eggs are greatly appreciated. Drop off location is by the front door. Help with the event is needed as well. Please see Jennifer Griffith if interested.



New Audio-Visual Production Booth by Megan Clark Young

Over the past several months, you will have noticed significant changes to the AV production area. On behalf of the AV production team, I'd like to express how grateful we are for the new space. Thank you to David Clark for being a "collector," and saving the old choir loft panels when the sanctuary was renovated. Thank you to Anne and Tom Kephart for storing the panels for all these years. Thank you to the anonymous donor who funded the majority of the project. Thank you to our trustees who brought our vision of a

functional space to life. And most especially, thank you to Tony Yauch, who put in so many hours, so that we not only have a functional space, but a beautiful one as well.

I reflect on the choir members who used to sit behind these panels, and the way the choir enhances worship. And now, we sit behind the same panels, enhancing worship in new ways.

Most importantly, we can now fit the number of people it takes to perform the audio-visual functions for our services: sound, slides, cameras, and live editing/switching. In an increasingly digital age, the ability to record and broadcast our services is invaluable. Whether it's reaching members who are unable to attend in person or sharing our message with a wider audience online, our AV booth allows us to extend the reach of our ministry beyond the walls of our sanctuary. Adding additional cameras and improving our broadcast production quality is our goal in the coming year.



(continued on page 4)

Palm Sunday Offering

This year our GLAD Offering on Palm Sunday will help victims of wildfires in Chile. Our missionaries in the area, John and Cathy Rug, are reaching out to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their region. Our support will help them share practical love in Jesus' name directly with victims.



Lenten Reflections

Our Discipleship Journey

by Pastor Bobby Griffith

We have entered the season of Lent, a time for introspection, reflection, and renewal. Marked by 40 days, mirroring Jesus' wilderness sojourn, Lent invites us to embark on our own inner pilgrimage, exploring the depths of faith and the essence of discipleship.

But what does it truly mean to be a disciple?

In Jesus' time, many Rabbis had followers who were called "disciples." The term means follower, learner, even scholar. To be a disciple meant that you internalized your Rabbi's teaching and lived it out publicly.

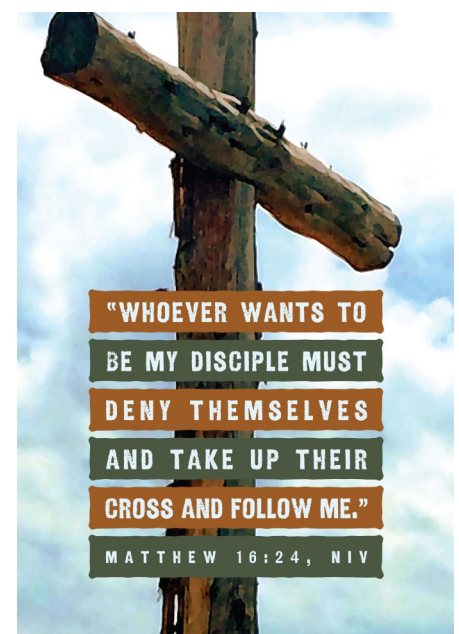
Often, we might think discipleship is church attendance, participating in Sunday School, or singing in the choir. While those are important, at its core, discipleship is an active, dynamic commitment to following Jesus' teachings and embodying his love in daily life. It's a continuous journey of transformation, marked by:

- **Humility:** Recognizing our limitations and imperfections, just as Jesus humbly entered the world, born in a manger. Lent encourages introspection, acknowledging areas where we fall short and seeking forgiveness.
- **Service:** Jesus spent his life serving others, washing feet, healing the sick, and advocating for the marginalized. This Lent, let's embody that spirit through acts of service, be it volunteering at a food bank, offering assistance to a neighbor, or simply lending a listening ear.
- **Growth:** Discipleship is a lifelong journey of spiritual growth. This Lent, dedicate time to studying scripture, attending church activities, and engaging in prayerful reflection. Allow God's word to nourish your soul and guide your steps.
- **Sacrifice:** True love often requires sacrifice. Just as Jesus sacrificed himself for humanity, Lent calls us to let go of something, be it a vice, a negative habit, or excessive materialism. Through this offering, we open ourselves to deeper connection with God and others.

Remember, the journey of discipleship isn't always easy. It's filled with challenges, moments of doubt, and temptations to stray from the path. But just as Jesus overcame the wilderness temptations, so too can we, with faith, perseverance, the support of our fellow church members, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

"...at its core, discipleship is an active, dynamic commitment to following Jesus' teachings and embodying his love in daily life."

This Lent, let us walk alongside one another, offering encouragement, sharing burdens, and celebrating victories. Let us actively seek ways to serve, love, and grow closer to God and each other. As we journey through these 40 days, remember, discipleship isn't a destination; it's a transformative path, one that leads us closer to understanding and embodying the true meaning of Christ's message.



Let's Go Camping!

Where can you enjoy swimming, crafts, camp fires, creek stomping, and maybe even paintball, rock climbing and soccer? All these camp activities and more are part of the summer camping experience at Seneca Hills!

[Seneca Hills](#) provides high-quality Bible-based programming for youth ages 5-18. *Camp With Me* (ages 5-8) offers a great introduction to the camp experience while *The Edge Wilderness Camps* for Jr. and Sr. High students teach participants how to know and serve others and God and how to live wisely in our world. Family Camp, conveniently scheduled

during Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends can help you start a new tradition and make memories to last a lifetime.

Take advantage of an open house at Seneca Hills on Saturday, May 4, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Just an easy 60-minute drive from the church!

Finally, don't let finances keep you from coming to camp. Scholarships are available! Contact the church office to learn more and visit senecahills.org for additional details.



Find Your Peace in God

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

The Easter Season is here and Lent is always a good time to start taking more time to talk with God. That is what we have been working on during our WOW Time. With discussions on the topics that Pastor Bobby will be covering on Sundays, it allows us to study and think more about those particular scriptures.

Other activities in February included a fun puzzle game to see if we could lead Punxsutawney Phil to an early spring and vote whether he would see his shadow or not. We made lanterns out of cardstock for Valentine's Day. We played a fun reminiscing picture game of "What is it and What Year Was it Popular?" and ended the month with a potluck brunch. We will continue with our WOW time, and our discussions.

During March we will have an art day, a day for wearing green, and a day for fragrance. We will not meet Maundy Thursday, March 28, but will return to our regularly scheduled meetings on April 4.

Come join the fun! Anyone age 50 and over is welcome. Exercise at 11 A.M. and lunch at noon followed by activities and fellowship.

"For
I KNOW
the plans
I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"... plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE."
Jeremiah 29:11, NIV



All-encompassing Savior

Christ be with me, Christ within me.
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me.
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

—Hymn attributed to St. Patrick



Christian Symbol

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



After a lengthy grading period in very cold weather, a storm retention pond construct, and battles with mud and sand (ask Dave and Bruce about falls in the mud – where were the cameras?!), the building itself is in full construction mode.

The concrete has been poured and, at this writing, the steel beams are standing – in case you missed it! The steel arrived early on a Saturday night and the truck driver lived in his truck for the weekend. Coffee and treats were delivered Sunday morning and he was invited to church. Monday morning arrived, the steel was off-loaded and within a short period of time the first beam was up. Exciting! The final steel installation will take about two to three weeks if the weather holds. (And Punxsutawney Phil said it would ...)

Throughout the process, **Dave Liggett** and **Bruce Harman** have nearly lived at the site, often working into the dark and making sure every workman and sub does their job. With the experience each of these men offer, if things are not done exactly to correct specifications, Dave and Bruce are there to question and change whatever is necessary. We are so very grateful for all their volunteer work and expertise.

Stay posted for monthly updates and feel free to stop at the construction site. (Wear old clothes, your help may be needed.)

- Marcia Votaw

(continued from cover)

Audio-Visual Booth

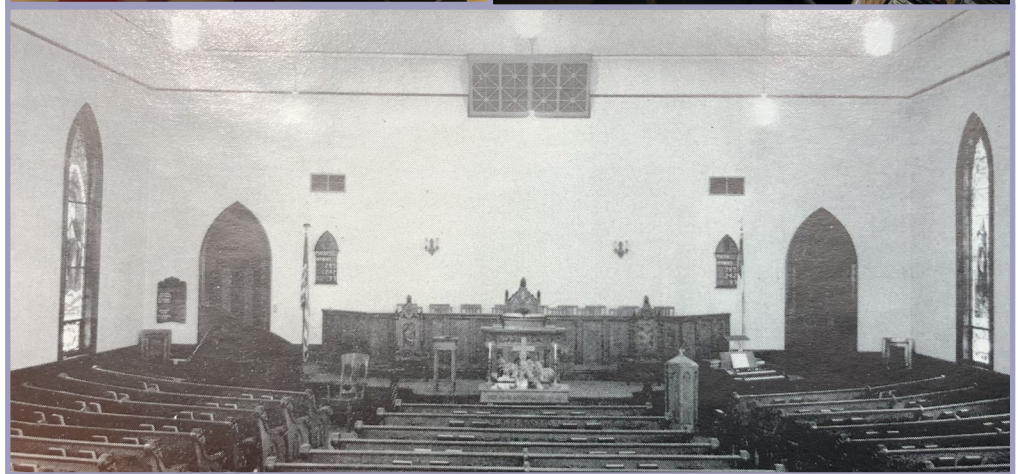
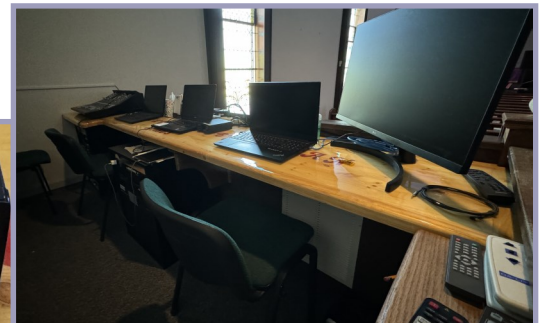
This new space also better accommodates our equipment. Before, the equipment was in the bottom of a solid cabinet or laying precariously on top. The equipment now has better air-flow, which can improve its longevity. The laptops and monitor are now safely on a solid surface behind a ledge.

The raised platform gives our team the ability to better see what is happening in the front of the sanctuary. It is often a subtle head nod of the pianist to indicate when an instrumental is ending and that singing and the lyric slides should resume. As we continue to settle into our new space, its benefits will continue to become apparent, allowing us opportunities to continue enhancing worship.

We are looking for additional volunteers. At a minimum, we need two people

working in the booth. To operate most effectively, we need 3-4. We are very excited that several of our Jr. High and High school-aged members have recently volunteered. We'd like to continue building a team of about 12, so that we can rotate, giving everyone on the team ample opportunities to worship as well. No AV experience or knowledge is necessary. If you are interested in learning more about how you might serve in this capacity, please contact me at macy781@gmail.com or 724-880-1005.

(Below) Current sound board and equipment and a great shot of the choir loft and wooden panels from the old sanctuary.



Christian Symbol

VICTOR'S CROSS — Also called the conqueror's cross, the victor's cross is composed of the Greek cross, recognized by its four equal arms, adorned with Greek letters in each quadrant. The top left letters stand for *Jesus* and the top right letters stand for *Christ* (the horizontal lines above them indicate that they are abbreviations). The four letters across the bottom spell the Greek word for *conqueror*.



Faith Habits to Disciple Kids

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries

I am three years into my job here at Westfield, and I feel like I'm still figuring it out. Thank you to all of you for your patience as we all learn and grow together. The part of my job that is children focused is more straight-forward to me... Sunday school curriculum, children's sermon, nursery lesson, VBS, Easter egg hunt, Christmas program, got it! But what about the family ministry part? That's a little more vague. I've enjoyed putting together resources to parents and grandparents for holidays like Lent and Advent, and Bible reading challenges over the summer, and even back to school lessons. Kids and families are often so busy, I wanted to give everyone something they can do at home, whenever works best with their schedules, rather than finding another night of the week to pack everyone up and come to the church. Both have their advantages and disadvantages, I know.

Discipleship at Home

This year I would like to try something a little different than just passing out lots of take-home papers and kits that might just get stepped on, thrown away, or forgotten about. (Don't worry, we are not going completely paperless!) My goal in 2024 is to help families implement little faith habits to disciple kids at home. I think most of you will agree that it's not that we don't know WHAT to share with our kids, but HOW to start talking about faith in a way that builds relationships with each other and with God. This will not be a one-time learning experience, but we have to start somewhere. So please join me and other parents/grandparents on Sunday nights in April as we begin **Family Discipleship 101**.

Until then, here are a few practical ways we can begin to teach our kids how to

show our love for Jesus. First, we need to get to know Him and spend more time with Him. Daily quiet time, obedience, trusting Him, worship, reading His Word, tithing, fasting, and showing His love to others, will help our love for Jesus grow.

Daily Quiet Time

For this month, I want to focus on one of these ways - daily quiet time with Jesus. First let me say, this is hard for all people! We are busy. We think once a week at church is good enough. Sometimes just don't want to, or we just forget. There are great tools available to us all, such as kid-friendly Bibles that they can understand and maybe has fun facts or more info on certain Bible stories. Next, be the example...read your Bible when/where they can see you, pray with them, keep a journal. We can also show our love for Jesus daily through worship. Singing songs is one act of worship. Lately, we have been listening to The Message channel on Sirius XM in the car, and I've been playing worship music on Alexa while I cook dinner (or wash dishes after Bobby cooks dinner. IYKYK.) Finally, we always need to know why we do this. Mark 1:35 tells us that Jesus did this - our ultimate example. Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us to love God. John 15:4-5 reminds us to remain connected to God. And James 4:8 says to draw near to God.

Daily quiet time with God might not be easy, and it might not happen every day, but don't stop trying. By teaching and showing our kids will help develop this habit and will help kids have a deep love for Jesus.

Coming in April!

Family
discipleship 101

Mark Your Calendar!

Family Discipleship 101

April 14

April 21

April 28

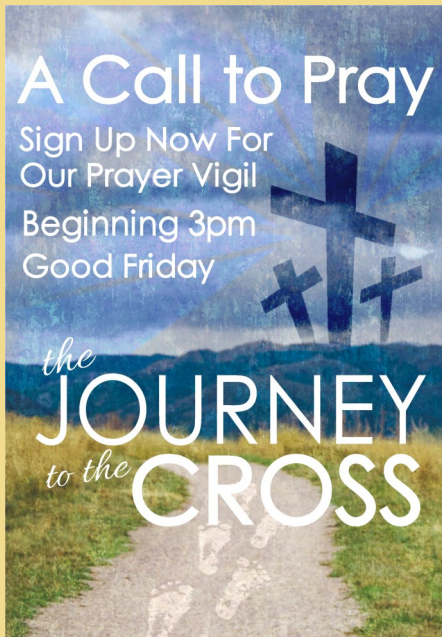
6:00 P.M.

Food Share: Help Others in Our Community

The Project HOPE Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned soup and crackers during the month of March. Items that can be donated anytime include laundry detergent, coffee, dish soap, cereal and juices. These items may be placed in the bins located in the coat rack area in the east wing.



The Blessing Box in Bessemer, adjacent to MoCo House, always needs handy items like easy mac'n cheese, individual fruit cups, and Spaghettios. Pop-top cans are preferred, please avoid items that need a can opener. These donations may be placed in the labeled bin near the Welcome Center or dropped off the next time you visit MoCo House.



A Call to Pray

by Lorraine Book

Do you ever feel like Easter Sunday arrives and you've been so consumed with work and preparing for quality time with friends and family that you have not had any real quality time with God?

In Isaiah 56:7 Jesus says "my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." When we have a prayer vigil at the church building we acknowledge our place of worship as a house of prayer where we meet with God. He speaks to us through scripture and we respond in prayer. It's an hour of "quality time" with God.

From 3:00 on Good Friday through sundown on Saturday Westfield church will be holding a Prayer Vigil. A sign-up poster will be in the narthex. The goal is to have every hour covered by one or more people. Please consider scheduling an hour with God.

This is what you do:

1. Sign up on the schedule during coffee and conversation in the parlor.
2. At your scheduled time, park at the portico and enter at the front door.
3. There will be numbered stations set up in the sanctuary.
4. You will find a scripture reading and a devotional reading at each station to guide your time of meditation, reflection, and prayer.

It should take an hour if you start at number one and spend about five minutes at each station.

This prayer vigil is an opportunity to draw closer to the Savior and come to know Him better as we remember how He suffered and died so we could have eternal life.

It's Okay to Be Human

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus Experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other., God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to

you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders, Lorraine Book or Linda McBride. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Meals Return in April

Our Free Community Meals have been on hold because of our construction project. The Deacons have not wanted to put our guests and trustees at risk during dark evenings, possible snow, limited parking, and a busy highway. We plan to resume our monthly meals on April 24 from 5 - 6:30 P.M. Thank you for your patience.



Take Time to “Examen”

I’m grateful to live in an area with distinct seasons. Each time of year has unique characteristics that give way to the next. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,” says Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV).

Each change of season also lends itself to *examen*, a spiritual practice that involves reflection. Typically done daily, examen invites people to recall past events (highlights, struggles, even mundane activities) and consider when they especially sensed God’s presence or when he seemed distant.

Try a deeper examen four times a year as the seasons change. As a starting point, use your answers to these questions:

- Looking back at the past season, when did I see God at work? What was life-giving to me?
- In what areas did I need God to work? What was life-draining?
- As I enter this next season, how is God inviting me to engage more with his presence?

Because Jesus Said So

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can’t wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. “You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend,” Begg says. “You’ve never been in a Bible study. You’ve never been baptized. You didn’t know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!”

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief’s entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, “On what basis are you here?” The thief simply replies, “The man on the middle cross said I can come.”



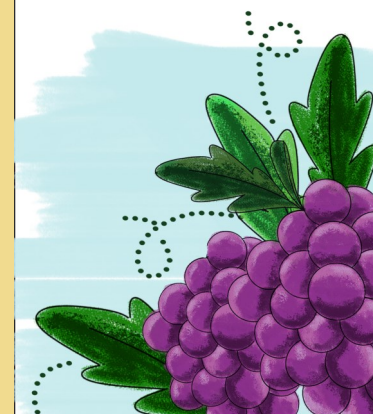
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner

The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “commandment.” Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion. That is what the Lord asked of his disciples and asks of us.

On March 25 at 6:00 P.M. the Gospel Searchers and College & Career Classes will host a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your table service and favorite casserole or side dish to share. Bread, beverages and dessert will be provided. Please contact Beth Clark with any questions.



6:00 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. Worship
& Communion



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 24

I pray for growth in faith to follow you, Lord, through both cross-like and resurrection-like times in my life.

11:00 A.M. Worship

Sacrament of holy communion, reception of new members

7:00 P.M. Community Worship at Westfield followed by refreshments and fellowship. A free-will offering will be taken.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

As you feed us, Lord, with your own body and blood, move us to feed the world — with food, with peace, with love.

6:00 P.M. Potluck Dinner hosted by Gospel Searchers and College & Career Classes. Please bring your table service and favorite casserole or side dish to

share. Bread, beverages, and dessert will be provided.

7:00 P.M. Communion Worship

Good Friday, March 29

Thank you, Jesus, for bearing the infirmities and transgressions of the whole world, that we may be healed

12:00 P.M. Worship

3:00 P.M. Prayer Vigil Begins. Please sign up during Coffee & Conversation in the Parlor

Easter Day, March 31

You greet me by name, risen Jesus, as you greeted Mary outside your tomb. I proclaim you my Teacher, my Savior, my Lord, my God.

8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Worship

9:45 A.M. Sunday School



Margie Benson
Carriage Manor

Janet Davis
at her residence

Bonnie Ernst
Masternick Memorial

Ann Fox
at her residence

Bob Kenny
at his residence

Hazel Pence
Quality of Life Services,
New Castle

JOIN US FOR

Westfield Presbyterian Church's Annual Family Easter Event

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024
10 AM - 12 NOON
NORTH BEAVER TWP PARK

EVENTS INCLUDE: EASTER STORY BOOK WALK, EGG HUNT, AND LUNCH
EVERYTHING IS FREE!

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, EVENT WILL BE HELD INDOORS AT WESTFIELD. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS 724-667-7045



3	Gracynn Guido	18	Kevin Byers
4	Joseph Downs		Avery Young
	Alan McBride	20	Sabrina McClain
6	Andy Shillingburg	22	Brenda Stewart
7	Addison Stivers	23	Wesley Cunningham
8	Hudson White	25	Eunice Randolph
	Hannah McKinley	26	Peggy Clark
	Blakely Thomas	27	Rhonda Breuer
9	Samuel Ealy	28	Lorraine Book
	Kathleen Gerhardt		Amy Gable
10	Mallex Ciavarino		Clayton Kenny
	Susan Schweikert	29	Ken Lytle
11	Lynn Lytle		Clifford Wallace
	Kelsey Quinn	30	Nicola Ciavarino
15	Parker Lyons	31	David Schmolly
17	Zoe Ciavarino		

13 Vanessa & Vish Pasumarthy
15 Pastor Bobby & Jennifer Griffith
16 Delta & Wes Stoner



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES