

April 2025



Celebrating Rev. John Mahon's 50th Anniversary of His Ordination

Sunday, March 23rd, WPC celebrated Rev. John Mahon's 50th anniversary of his ordination. There was a special Litany and presentation of a certificate during the worship service. Karen Young read an original Frog and Toad story that she wrote for John. After the service we had a salad potluck lunch. The Fellowship Hall was decorated in a Frog and Toad theme. Rev. Audrey Schindler (former WPC pastor) and her husband, Bruce Felix, attended from out of town. Three members of the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church joined us.

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|-------------------|----------|
| Bob Bills | April 04 |
| E. J. Peterson | April 04 |
| Emilie York | April 04 |
| John Mahon | April 06 |
| Rebecca Rodriguez | April 08 |
| Gwen Childs | April 09 |
| Laura Stanton | April 09 |
| Jack Maddex | April 10 |
| Reid Schukart | April 11 |
| Carmen Olsen | April 14 |
| Jeanie Halberg | April 15 |
| Heather York | April 16 |
| Kevin Strode | April 17 |
| Collin Dwyer | April 21 |
| Carol Bills | April 22 |
| Grace Gundry | April 27 |
| William Valtinson | April 27 |
| Diana Fitzer | April 28 |
| Marcee Long | April 28 |



From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

I saw the request for people to share some Easter memories. I have several, but I initially thought of two. The first was the actual day I became a Christian. As I've mentioned, I did not grow up in the church or with any belief, partly because my parents had some bad experience in the church before. In my late twenties, I was going through a period where I was reading a lot about Christian faith and theology and taking it seriously for the first time in my life.

In April of 1998, I was visiting my parents in Pasadena, Ca. I had noticed an advertisement for a performance of Mozart's Requiem at the nearby Pasadena Presbyterian Church. That is a piece of music that I have always loved and found very powerful, so I decided to attend. While I had heard it many times before, I had never attended a performance in person, and hearing it in a church was very moving, so I decided to attend worship the following Easter Sunday.

On that day, April 12, 1998, I went to the first Easter worship service in my adult life, and something happened to me. As I mentioned before, I had been wrestling with the question of Christian faith for some time, but in that moment, I remember looking up at a yellowish stained glass window with the sun shining on it and something in me changed, and I put my faith and trust in Christ, and I've never stopped doing that ever since.

My other memory is perhaps less profound, but it was memorable. It happened on my first Easter Sunday as an ordained minister. That was very meaningful to me, but we had four services that morning, including a sunrise service. Between the four services and the power of the day and the newness of it all, by the end of the last service my brain was kind of bleary, and as I turned a corner around the large communion table, I somehow slammed my shin right into a low barrier wall.

It really hurt and bled and I still have a scar and a dent in my shin from that, even though it was almost twenty years ago. But somehow, the pain helped me snap out of performing my role and remember what Jesus went through for us. Now it is laughable to compare a bruised shin with what Jesus went through physically, but at that time it did help me get out of my own head and remember why we were all there, and in its own way, that was a holy moment for me.

Peace,
-David

*Easter Memories*

My favorite Easter memory is attending a sunrise service at an outdoor amphitheater on the banks of the Neuse River in New Bern, NC. Chilly and dark at first, the sun gradually rose over the river and warmed the assembled congregation. A simple wooden cross at the front faced rows of wooden benches and huddled worshippers. A moving service followed and prepared us for celebrating the Resurrection on a glorious Sunday morning! - Bill Shelly



My favorite Easter memory: attending an Easter sunrise service with my Dad in the Bay Area high on an Oakland hill overlooking the San Francisco Bay while the sun came up behind the Golden Gate Bridge! - Elly Muiderman

Brad was the only son of a dear family in our church. In his early 30's he was in liver failure, delirious in ICU, in need of a liver donor. He was dying during Passion Week. On Good Friday a liver became available, he went to Surgery and literally on Easter Sunday afternoon he began to "wake up". He is now a nurse and doing well many years later. Every Easter I remember Brad. Not of course equivalent to the Victory over eternal death, but a picture of "hopeless to hope". - Karen Young

A picture is worth a thousand words. - Jennifer Stanton



We always got new clothes "from the skin out". Special Easter outfits (mine usually with patent leather shoes). The whole family went to church together and the music was stirring and beautiful. Tom remembers grating horseradish for the "Shoun" (a special beet and horseradish relish for the Easter ham) and taking a basket of food to be blessed. - Jean and Tom Kozlowski

I loved searching for my Easter basket on Easter morning (we knew the Easter Bunny had been there because the carrot was gone). Nobody could hide an Easter basket like my dad! - Julia Frederick

My favorite memory is the sun rise service. Sun shining through the stain glass windows. - Lin Hirst



I always had a new Easter outfit, including a hat and purse. - Teri Yerton

When we lived in TN, I hosted huge Easter Egg Hunts for family and for the neighborhood. My dad would always dress up as the Easter Bunny and I would dress up as well. This year I was "Easter Pearl" complete with hat and price tag! Such a blessing when my family and friends came together. - Ann McCarley



Church Updates... News from the Session

Building and Grounds:

An estimate for the breezeway is expected this week. There is a gas line on the top of the breezeway. It should be a buried line. Don will contact NW Natural to determine how that can be done. There were no security issues in February.

Christian Education:

CE created a 2025 WPC Lent Calendar that was passed out on March 2nd. Calendars were mailed to our homebound members. Plans are underway for the June 1st Senior Luncheon and Auction to raise money for the Zephyr Point Youth Trip.

Preschool:

The registration for 2025-2026 is full and there is a waiting list. There will be 2 Summer Camps for 3–6-year-olds in June.

Fellowship, Membership and Outreach:

April 4th will be a church spring cleaning day.

Missions:

One Great Hour of Sharing donations will be collected through Palm Sunday. April 6th Brad Bills from Hosea Youth Services will speak during Coffee Hour.

Stewardship and Personnel:

A check was sent to the Cascades Presbytery for per capita based on our current active membership of 145.

Worship and Music:

Preparations for Holy Week continue. The choir will be singing at all Holy Week services. There will be instrumentalists for Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 13th @ 10:00 am



Maundy Thursday, April 17th @ 7:00 pm



Good Friday, April 18th @ 7:00 pm



Easter Sunday, April 20th @ 10:00 am

Please join us on the journey to Easter. The choir will be singing special music at each service. There will be an Easter Egg hunt following worship on Easter.



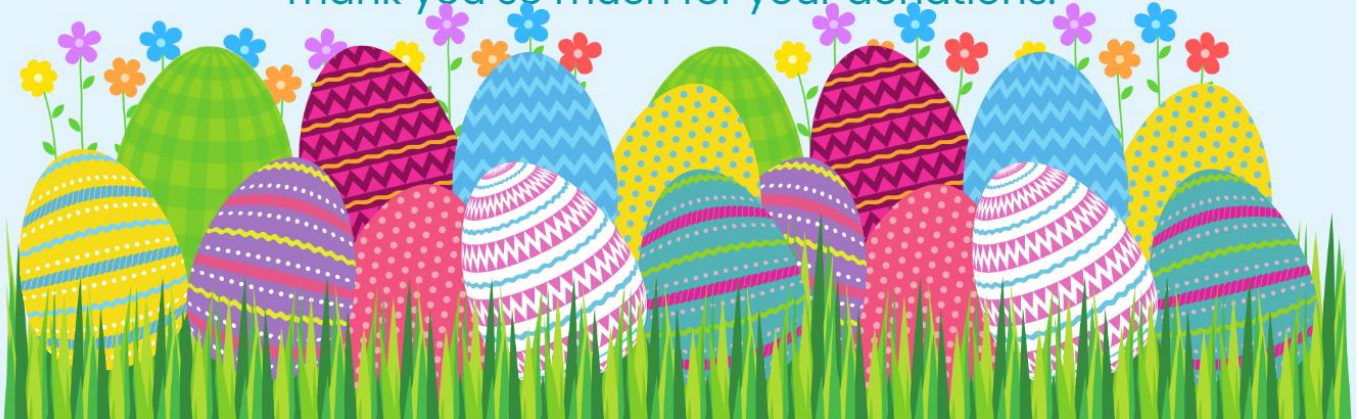
By the time you read this message, we will be approaching Holy Week – Christ’s triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, betrayal and foot washing on Maundy Thursday, the denial and crucifixion on Good Friday, and of course Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday. But before we can celebrate the risen Christ, we have to experience the events of Holy Week. What is the resurrection without the Last Supper, which we observe every time we receive communion. What is the resurrection without the betrayal, denial and crucifixion of Christ? Please be sure to join us for all the Holy Week events, in particular, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The choir will be offering new, meaningful and reflective Holy Week music, and we’ll have guest instrumentalists on Good Friday to enhance worship. And of course, join us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the risen Christ with celebratory music and guest brass.

Michael Mercatante
Music Director

We will be having our traditional Easter Egg Hunt on
Easter Sunday, April 20th.

We need your help – Please donate bags of candy
to fill our eggs. The candy needs to be individually
wrapped. A box will be in the office where you can drop
off your candy.

Thank you so much for your donations.





Status of Stormwater Runoff Project at WPC

Rainwater from our nonpermeable surfaces like the parking lots and roofs runs into the storm drains and eventually ends up in our creeks and rivers. These waters have a lot of pollutants in them that wash off our surfaces such as tire dust and oil from our automobiles. The city of Eugene treats this water to remove the pollution and charges us based on the square footage of nonpermeable surface we have. Currently we pay more than \$500 per month for stormwater runoff and it increases every year.

For several years now our Landscape Committee has been working with the Long Tom Watershed Council developing strategies for site specific control to limit pollutants from flowing off our property. The plan that was being developed was to create areas where the rain runoff water would be diverted into depressions or basins where plants could filter the water and let it soak back into the ground. Last year the Long Tom Watershed Council was working on the plans and had grant money available to finance the project in 2025.

This January we received this email:

“Hi Team Westminster, I am writing to let you know that we have been experiencing a lot of change over here at the Long Tom over the past year, resulting in us having to shift which projects we are actively working on, and that includes your project. Greg is no longer with the Council, and we will not be able to hire and train up a replacement until later this year.

Westminster will remain on our active projects list, but it could be into next year before we are able to pick it back up again. My sincere apologies for the drawn-out process. I will reach back out when we are ready to dig back into your exciting project.

Sincerely, Sarah Whitney

Urban Restoration & Stormwater Specialist

I have been looking for ways to move things along and new church member Jonathan Oakes approached me and said he has had experience working with stormwater runoff plans and asked if he could help. Jonathan contacted Sarah at Long Tom and met with her the first part of March. He reports that they have a partial plan and that he thinks he can help them complete the plan and get things moving again. The first thing he plans to do is perform a percolating test in the S.W. field to see how fast the water soaks into our ground and have it certified by an engineer. That will determine how big an area we will need to have converted to a water garden area to filter out the pollutants. He also asked them if there was money available to help us with the project and she reported that there was up to \$20,000 available for our project.

That is where we stand at the moment. Hopefully we can keep things moving and complete this project.

Thanks, Kyle Coats

One Great Hour of Sharing



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.

At WPC we are collecting donations for One Great Hour of Sharing through Palm Sunday. There are envelopes in the pews you can use to designate your gift, or you can write OGHS on the memo line of your check. You can also donate through VANCO online. There are Fish Banks available in the Narthex that can be filled with change and returned on Palm Sunday.

WORLD RELIGIONS

TAUGHT BY REV. DAVID UKROPINA

This spring, Westminster Presbyterian Church will be offering an Adult Education class on World Religions, led by Rev. David Ukropina. We'll be studying different world religions as we also consider the larger question of what it means to be a Christian in a religiously diverse world.



Schedule

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|--|------------------------------|
| April 6 – Islam | May 4 – The Primal Religions |
| April 13 – Judaism | May 11 - Mysticism |
| April 20 – no class – Easter | May 18 - Conclusion |
| April 27 – Christianity | |

The class will combine lecture with some discussion, so come and bring your questions and experiences. Hope to see you there!

Youth
News

I'll take Youth Jeopardy for 200, Alex.



Coming up in April...

- 4/13: Palm Sunday Processional--meet at 9:45am
senior parent meeting after worship and
Youth Group at church 5:30-7:30
- 4/20: Easter Sunday and egg hunt. Youth can help hide eggs
- 4/27: Youth Group 5:30-7:30



Preschool Newsflash

Happy Spring to our amazing Westminster Presbyterian Church family. We are looking forward to warmer weather, spring blooms and trees full of leaves once again. Spring is an exciting time in our preschool. Spring really does bring that sense of renewal, and it's wonderful to channel some of that energy into creative crafts and activities with the preschoolers. Flowers, trees, bugs and bunnies are all perfect symbols of this season, and it's heartwarming to know that the little ones are working hard to bring those ideas to life. The classrooms are filled with colorful, joyful artwork, that not only makes the students happy but also makes the teachers happy as well. It is a fun experience for parents and visitors to see all the creativity on display. One of the many fun things we did before going on Spring Break was celebrating St. Patrick's Day with the children. All the students enjoyed the fun crafts, turning themselves into "leprechauns" and building elaborate leprechaun traps. We also enjoyed a fun umbrella parade for the end of "U" week, we played marching music while we paraded around the church and preschool grounds, what fun!

It's truly inspiring to see and be a part of the commitment the team at Westminster Preschool and Church are to nurturing the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. That holistic approach creates such a positive, lasting impact on the students. Westminster Presbyterian Preschool isn't just a school but a close-knit community where everyone feels supported and valued. As the school year draws to a close, reflecting on that gratitude and the deep connections we've built together is so important. It's clear that we are all making a real difference in the lives of the students and their families.

With much gratitude,

Kelly Ford

"Spring is proof that there is beauty in new beginnings."

-Matshona Dhiwayo





Creation Care

Westminster is honored to receive the Earth Care certification by the PCUSA for the year of 2024. We earn this certification by having friendly environmental standards and behavior within four areas of our church (Worship, Education, Outreach, and Building & Grounds). This award gives us a title as an Earth Care Congregation. We were first certified in 2011 and have earned certification a total of 10 times. A big thank you to each church member and commission that works on the big and little activities that make WPC an Earth Care Congregation. Those activities may range from washing coffee hour dishes & communion cups, composting, recycling office paper, our plastic recycling collections, planting native plants, growing a vegetable garden, our prayers and songs in worship, our cleaning supplies, our solar panels and MORE! Our Preschool also was involved with our certification process this year!

The Earth Care Congregation program is housed under the Presbyterian Hunger Program, because Presbyterians believe that hunger, poverty, and environmental destruction are linked areas of concern, constantly interacting with, and impacting people's lives. What a wonderful joy it is to know that we are helping God's children, and the earth have a healthier home.



PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

certifies

*Westminster Presbyterian Church
Eugene, Oregon*

as an

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

on this

15th+ year of certification

*for its outstanding environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education,
facilities and outreach in the life of the church.*

Through February, 2026

Signature *Jessica Maudlin* Date 3/3/2025
Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns

Ongoing Groups

Everyone is welcome to join!

Creation Care Committee

The next Creation Care Committee meeting will be April 15th @ 5:30. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact Theresa O'Brien at 541-510-1931

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am at Terry's Diner, 2079 River Rd., Eugene. All associated with Westminster Presbyterian Church are invited.

We have a good time, good food, fellowship, prayer, great discussions and get to know each other.

For more information contact Kyle Coats at (541)914-0898.



WPC Knitters

The Knitters meet every Tuesday at 10:45 at the church. You are invited to join them (no matter your skill level) for an hour of fellowship and knitting, crocheting or other handwork.

