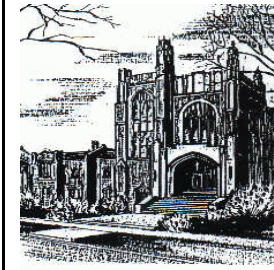


Westminster Presbyterian Church
1360 W. Main Street
Decatur, IL 62522

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The **W**estminster *Chimes*



Issues No.7 & 8

July - August 2017



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Monday - Friday
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Contact the Church Office 428-6603
The Westminster Chimes is published on a regular basis by
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1360 W. Main St., Decatur, Illinois 62522

The Church Staff

Pastor~Head of Staff The Reverend Marjorie Ackerman
Teaching Pastor The Reverend Dr. Timothy Kovalcik
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Administrative Secretary/Bookkeeper Pat Starbird
Director of Music Christine Whitlatch
Organist Peter K. Miller
Director of Jazz Sunday Randall Reyman
Custodian Louis Martin
Housekeeper Sharon Moore
Nursery Angela Hill
Session Members: Shannon Allen, Matt Briggs, Amelia Finch, Trevor Giger, Steve Huss, Sam Mills,
Nancy Minks, John Phillips, Joel Winick

The Spiritual in the Ordinary

As the hot, humid days of summer envelop us, the craziness of sports, vacations, and family reunions can be overwhelming. For a season that has traditionally been associated with comfort and relaxation, there is certainly no shortage of activities to keep us occupied.

One of the challenges of summer is to stay committed to spiritual growth and development in the midst of all the activities. Learning to recognize the 'spiritual' in the 'ordinary' is one way to nurture growth in our lives.

For example, consider the Fourth of July holiday. We celebrate our independence as a free nation, complete with parades and amazing displays of fireworks. We have the opportunity to openly share our faith without fear of persecution - but how many of us are comfortable actually doing that? Summertime is a wonderful opportunity to think about what needs to happen in our own lives to build our willingness to share what we believe.

The celebration also includes fireworks. When we see the powerful bursts of color, hear the explosions, and see the amazing displays, it can remind us of difficult things - like the 'explosions' in our own lives, due to our own tempers or the situations that 'blow up' around us. With that can come the feeling that fire is about to pour down upon us. In the end, though, the situation often proves to be a beautiful display of power, bringing color to our lives in ways we could never imagine.

Another example of recognizing the 'spiritual' in the 'ordinary' is to think about summer festivals. A quick glance at the art displays reminds us to look at things differently once in awhile. Whether we love them or hate them, riding the carnival rides can remind us that there are different perspectives around us - that there's more than one way to look at the things we see everyday.

(Continued on the next page)

By stepping out of our regular routines, we open ourselves to new experiences that allow God to speak to us in new ways. As we continue through the craziness of summertime, may we always be open to God's leading - no matter how ordinary the situation may seem.

Marji

A Book Review for The Benedict Option, by Rod Dreher

This review is an adaptation of my full review which can be found on my website:

Reallifeofthemind.com

The Benedict Option professes to be a strategy for Christians in a post Christian world. While there is great value, good research and timely wisdom the entire premise and purpose of the book is built on precarious assumptions. It is a worthy read and well worth the time. However, it is more of a discussion starter than a grand conclusion.

Dreher's work can be lauded for its research and timely appeal to tradition. As an historian I appreciate his connections to the long reach of the Church fathers and the complex nature of Christian intellectual development. In some cases he glosses over a lot of the details, especially when he explains the nominalism debate of the fourteenth century. But I do not believe PhDs are his core audience and his writing, though simplistic, is also very clear and approachable for the novice reader.

The real strength of the book is providing examples for Christian depth and discipleship. The book is a critique of the current culture, but the real emphasis is about using the Benedictine Rule as a model for Christians in a post-Christian world. Dreher encourages Churches to be much more creative and intentional in their approach, especially as it relates to discipline and commitment. I find this inspiring. He is essentially advocating a return to the success of tradition made new in today's world. This 'new-old' model is indeed a very good option.

Unfortunately, the greatest flaw in the book is the entire premise. Dreher has waived the white flag and declared Christians defeated in the culture war. There is no equivocation. As evidence he sights the Supreme Court ruling on gay marriage and numerous statistics related to belief and church activity. As he lays out his definition of the culture war, he may be correct. But it is his definition that is lacking. It is extremely short sighted to think of the culture war only in terms of the last forty years and only as a reflection of American culture. Indeed, Dreher is correct that there has been a remarkable shift in attitude and perspective. He and other academics are calling this the post- Christian world. This is a problematic description. To assume that the western world was completely consumed by Christianity in the first place is a nostalgic and revisionist perspective. There is certainly no denying the influence and dominance of Christian and Church influence. Nor is there any arguing that most of the western world has practiced some version of Christianity since at least the advent of the Holy Roman Empire in the 800s. But, the presence of a majority powerful Christian institution does

(Continued on next page)

not necessarily mean the preeminence of Christian culture. The struggle between the 'city of heaven and the city of God' is ongoing and pervasive in every generation of Christians. As Dreher points out, Benedict himself was responding to the culture of the late 5th century. I would argue such a struggle produced the Carolingian renaissance, the 11th and 12th century philosophical revolutions, the Reformation, the Wesleyan revival, the Great Awakening, and so on. In other words, there is a constant call for renewal in the face of cultural shifts. If the Benedict Option is an attempt to help spark such another movement than great, but it is presumptuous to isolate the American moment and assume it is somehow unique.

Another problem with Dreher's premise is the implication that Christians should withdraw from the culture. He recommends a new direction in politics, local government and education. Again I agree with many of his recommendations as a way to bring new life and creativity into the Church and Christian communities. But, his writing suggests this is a retreat. The very idea of Benedict was to set up communities wholly isolated from the world. It is true Christians need a new strategy but I am not convinced Christians should not be an active part of the culture, nor should Christians cease participating in civic debate. Furthermore, Dreher's surrender is defined by political and statistical measures. There are other ways to look at the culture wars. The success of Christianity is defined by the human heart, not culture. Therefore, it is awkward to speak in terms of victory and defeat based solely on issues that usually end up in the Supreme Court.

I do recommend *The Benedictine Option* as a great discussion starter. But it should be viewed with some skepticism.

Pastor Tim

Sermon and Scripture Conversations

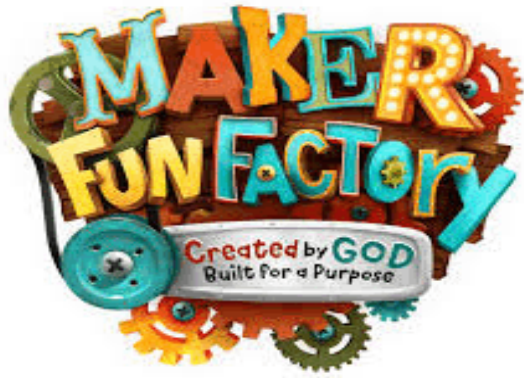
Pastor Tim will be available on **Tuesday mornings starting July 11 from 7-8:30 at Coney McKanes** in downtown Decatur. This time is set aside for informal discussions about recent sermons or scripture questions. However, it is mostly about fellowship and free discussion. Please come have breakfast or just a cup of coffee and enjoy the fellowship! This will continue for every Tuesday in July and August.

Vacation Time

Remember when you go on vacation to keep your church giving up-to-date. Throughout the summer months when you are traveling, the work of the church continues. So when you stop your paper and stop your mail, please take a few minutes to write and mail your check to the church.



Your donations will be most appreciated!



Vacation Bible School

All children ages 3 years old are invited to join us starting Sunday, July 16 through Thursday, July 20 for our "Maker Fun Factory" VBS! Each evening from 6:00 to 8:30 we will learn about how we were created by God and built for a purpose.

VBS Registration

It's not too early to register!!!!

You may pre-register at: www.vbspro.events/p/wpcdeatur. VBS dates are Sunday, July 16 – Thursday, July 20 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm and is open to all children ages 3 years old through completed 5th grade.

Family Movie Nights continue through August 2nd!!

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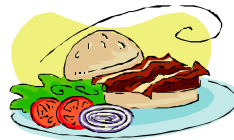
Each week at 6:30pm we will show a family friendly movie and serve popcorn, drinks, and dessert. Here is the line-up for the remainder of the summer:

- July 5 - The Jungle Book
- July 12 - Moana
- July 19 - NO MOVIE (VBS week)
- July 26 - Trolls
- August 2 - Smurf's Lost Village

he movie nights are open to everyone so invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Attention Senior Citizens !!!

Our Senior Citizens Luncheons are being held on the **4th Tuesday of the month** starting at 11:30 a.m. -1pm in the Fellowship Hall. The next luncheon is scheduled for **July 25, 2017**. The meal is provided by the Deacons, card games and board games will follow. We hope you will join us for fun, fellowship and food!



Celebrating Birthdays in July

12	Lucy Besser	23	Cyndy Smith
12	Celina Ragsdale	24	Lynley Farrington
14	David Chumbley	27	Keith Chalmers
15	Candi Clevenger	27	Mary Lou Zacheis
18	Barbara Entrot	28	Kara Huss
18	Jeslyn Taylor	30	McKenna Giger
19	Mark Huss	31	Grant Storckman



Happy Birthday!

Celebrating Birthdays in August

1	Natalie Kalala	20	Rylee Hayman
2	Paul McCann	21	Louis Martin
2	Jean Patrick	22	George Coutant
3	Molly Besser	25	Erica Besser
5	Mary Keele	25	Levi Horvath
7	Garrett Allen	25	Maddox Windhorst
7	Carin Houser	26	Dorothy Coutant
8	Jim Livasy	26	Pauline Jurgens
15	Francois Kalala	26	Ardith Shaffer
15	Helene Kovalcik	27	Bobbi Jo Williams
15	Mandy Power	30	Emmery Kovalcik
17	Susan Shaw		



Do You Have a Prayer Concern?



Please let us know. Fill out a Prayer Request form in the church Pew or let Pat in the church office know. At each church meeting, the members of that meeting will pray for you by name. Prayer concerns are also sent out in the E-news. If you do not wish your condition known, please note that also. We at Westminster are here to pray for you!

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20



Worship Attendance for June 2017

June 4	93
June 11	75
June 18	85
June 25	85

Average Attendance June: 85

Financial Report for June 2017



June Revenue		
Actual Receipts Received	\$12,002.00	Total Expenses \$38,124.47
Endowment Money Received	0	
Interest Received	0	Income Minus Expenses
Trust Money Received	0	-\$26,122.47
Total Receipts	\$12,002.00	



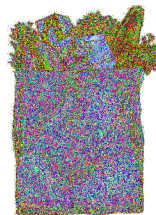
Reminder!

Your Per Capita Apportionment for 2017

For the year 2017 Westminster is assessed \$40.00 for each member by the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. Per capita is defined as "A means for all members to share in the cost involved in conducting and administering the ecclesiastical, judicial, and legislative functions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The \$40.00 apportionment is divided as follows: \$7.50 supports the General Assembly, \$3.81 supports the Synod of Lincoln Trails and the remaining \$28.69 supports the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. You may help the church's budget by making a contribution to cover your family's apportionment.

Food Pantry Collection ...

The food pantries in Decatur continue to need food items of all kinds including canned fruits and vegetables, soup beans, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, canned tuna and chicken. Baskets are available for your donations in front of the church office and in the narthex. Your contributions are very much appreciated!



†† Congregational Life ††

With Christian Love and Sympathy to the Family and Friends of:

Grant Spencer Staley, 48, who died Monday, June 19, 2017. Services were held on Friday, June 23, 2017, at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Star of Hope Mausoleum at Graceland Cemetery.

Please continue to remember the Staley family in your thoughts and prayers.

Birth Congratulations ...

Ophelia Kathleen Thompson was born to Matt and Stacie Thompson of Cypress, TX on April 25. She was welcomed home by big sister, Callie. Lia is the 3rd granddaughter and 7th grandchild of Kathy Thompson. Kathy spent a week in Houston meeting Lia and spending time with Matt's family.

In the News ... Did You Know?

Levi Horvath was recently featured in the newspaper for volunteering at Rock Springs summer camp as a counselor in training. Levi now 15, has been participating faithfully since he was three years old at Rock Springs and now as a counselor in training.
Great job Levi ... we are proud of you and your dedication!



DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

COMING UP...


**ANNUAL COMMUNITY FAMILY FEST
SEPTEMBER 10TH**





Calendar of Events
July 2017



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 Youth Car Wash 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
2 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	3 Chordsmen	4 4th of July Independence Day Holiday - Office Closed 	5 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:30 P.m. Movie Night	6 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class	7	8
9 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	10 7:00 p.m. C. E. Meeting Chordsmen	11 7-8:30 a.m. Conversations with Pastor Tim at Coney McKanes 9:30 a.m. PW Meeting 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	12 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:30 P.m. Movie Night	13 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class	14	15
16 JAZZ SUNDAY 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Deacon's Mtg. VBS Begins 6:00-8:30 p.m.	17 12:00 noon Finance Meeting Chordsmen VBS 6:00-8:30 p.m.	18 7-8:30 a.m. Conversations with Pastor Tim at Coney McKanes 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting VBS 6:00-8:30 p.m.	19 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study NO Movie Night VBS 6:00-8:30 p.m.	20 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class 1:30 p.m. Parkinson's Group 3:00 p.m. Trustee Mtg. VBS 6:00-8:30 p.m.	21 9:00 a.m. Volunteer at Good Samaritan	22
23 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	24 Chordsmen	25 7-8:30 a.m. Conversations with Pastor Tim as Coney McKanes 11:30 a.m. Sr. Luncheon 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle	26 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:30 P.m. Movie Night	27 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class	28	29
30 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	31 Chordsmen					



Calendar of Events August 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7-8:30 a.m. Conversations with Pastor Tim at Coney McKanes 9:30 a.m. PW Meeting 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	2 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 6:30 P.m. Movie Night	3 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class	4	5
6 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	7 Chordsmen	8 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	9 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	10 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class	11	12
13 9:15 a.m. Mission Meeting 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	14 7:00 p.m. C. E. Meeting Chordsmen	15 7-8:30 a.m. Conversations with Pastor Tim at Coney McKanes 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	16 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	17 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class 1:30 p.m. Parkinson's Group 3:00 p.m. Trustee Mtg.	18 9:00 a.m. Volunteer at Good Samaritan	19
20 JAZZ SUNDAY 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Deacon's Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Chimes Deadline	21 12:00 noon Finance Meeting Chordsmen	22 7-8:30 a.m. Conversations with Pastor Tim at Coney McKanes 11:30 a.m. Sr. Luncheon 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle	23 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	24 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	25	26 WPC Leadership Retreat
27 10:00 am. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Youth Group	28 Chordsmen	29 7-8:30 a.m. Conversations with Pastor Tim at Coney McKanes 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	30 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study	31 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class		

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Psalm 150:1