

Westminster Messenger

January, 2021



This month in worship we are going to be looking at different texts that have to do with the idea of calling. I have to be honest with you, I've got conflicting feelings about this idea. Back when I was going through the process to become a pastor, one of the questions I frequently got was, "Tell me about how you were called to the ministry?" This question always made me cringe a little. I felt like I was supposed to have some sort of miraculous story of divine revelation, as if a voice from heaven called out to me and told me what to do. It seemed people

were expecting me to have a clear sense that this was what I was born to do.

I can still recall that insecure feeling I would get as I stumbled through an answer that usually went something like, "I took a chance working in a church and I liked it, I found it fulfilling, and people even told me I was good at it." There is nothing quite like hearing the sound of a disappointed, "Oh," as you crush the hopes of someone expecting to hear something magical.

A first look at the scripture texts at the beginning of John and Mark's Gospels, would also point to the miraculous nature of a voice of God calling out to us. But a second or third look reveals what I have found true about calling. It is usually much more subtle, accidental and experiential in nature. And it really is less about hearing some voice outside ourselves, and more about listening for and even learning more about who each one of us uniquely is.

Hands down my favorite quote about vocation comes from the great spiritual teacher, Howard Thurman. *"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

This quote is a reminder that our sense of calling doesn't come from the endless list of the worlds "should dos" and "ought tos," but rather from deep within. From knowing our true self, and the interests, passions, and sparks that make us feel most alive or allow us to live with the greatest congruence to who we know our selves to be. And yes, that may even mean leaving some really important needs of the world for someone else, in order for us to realize what is ours to do.

I look forward to discovering these texts on calling with you this month and pondering again what new things we might learn about ourselves and how God is calling us to live from that greater sense of who we are.

John 1:1-18 – Born of God

Mark 1:1-11 – In You I Find Happiness

John 1:43-51 – Come and See

Mark 1:14-20 – Learning Something New

Mark 1:21-28 – Exercising Demons

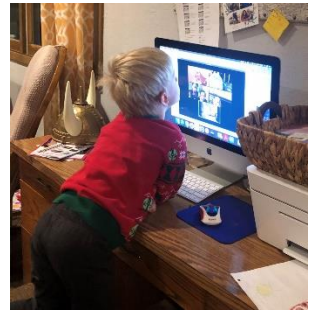
Pastor Dan

Wes Pres Wednesday Resumes!

We begin our Zoom classes this Wednesday, January 6. We are so excited to meet together with your kids on Wednesday nights! The schedule is:

All ages will have online classes only:

- 3yrs olds – kindergarten from 5:30 - 6pm
- 1st - 2nd grade from 6 - 6:30
- 3rd - 5th grade from 6:30 – 7pm



Youth will also be meeting online.

The story of Samson is the culmination of the book of Judges, a chronicle of Israel's failure to live up to their divine calling after entering the promised land. In the same way, Samson failed to live up to his divine calling. His life parallels the history of Israel in many ways. This five-week series Wes Pres Youth will look at Samson's successes and failures and how God used him in spite of his shortcomings. Human sin carries

serious consequences, but it cannot stop God from accomplishing his purposes.

Join us for the next weeks via zoom.com every Wednesday!

Jr. High will be at 6 pm // Meeting ID: 889 1138 8639

Sr. High at 7:30 pm // Meeting ID: 860 7949 9413

The men's and women's groups will be meeting on Wednesdays and if you would like to join in, please contact Pastor Dan at dan@wpcw.org or call the church office.

The Grand Sweep Bible Study

We continue our journey through the bible with the Grand Sweep Bible Study beginning Tuesday, January 12. The class is led by the pastors from the PCUSA churches in the Cedar Valley. We pick up our reading with the New Testament. **We welcome any new travelers on our journey through God's word.** We begin with the gospels and will work our way through to the final 'Amen' of Revelation by the middle of April. **The class meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Pastor Dan or the church office and we will send you the recurring link.** People are welcome to follow that link and join the class that week. Missing a few classes is fine. We encourage you to keep up your reading.

Winter / Spring Semester – 2021

Jan. 12 Matthew 1-28

Jan. 19 Mark 1-16

Jan. 26 Luke 1-24

Feb. 2 John 1-21

Feb 9 Acts 1-28

Feb.16 Romans 1-16

Feb. 23 1 Corinthians 1-16

March 2 2 Corinthians 1-13

March 9 Galatians, Ephesians

March 16 Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians



March 23 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
March 30 No Class – Holy Week

April 6 Hebrews, James
April 13 1 & 2 Peter; 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude
April 20 The Revelation to John

Volunteer Opportunities



Even during this time of Covid, there are still opportunities to help at Westminster.

- **Presbyterian Pantry** - open on the first Saturday of the month and the 3rd Thursday. We are always needing volunteers to help pass out food on these days but we also need help pre-packing the food the day or two prior. You can call the church office at 234-5501 if you want to come in and help pack. Go to wpcw.org/volunteer to help when the pantry is open.
 - **Snow removal during the week** - Our church custodian resigned before Christmas and so now we are looking for volunteers that would be willing to help clear sidewalks and steps around the church during the week when it snows. We have plenty of shovels or you can be trained on the riding snow blower. Contact the office to be put on the call list.
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Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24. The details of this meeting will be coming shortly.

Annual Reports for 2020, will be made available by Friday, January 15.

Worship Live Stream

Just a reminder to join us Sunday mornings from the comfort of your own couch! You can watch Sunday's worship service with us live, or any time after by visiting wpcw.org/YouTube. Our worship services are also saved to the Worship tab on our website.



***** SOCIAL ACTION INC. PRESENTS *****

THE 42ND ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BANQUET

The DREAM Remembered, The DREAM Continued



Mrs. Willie Mae Wright



Mr. Larry Stumme

6:00 PM



**JANUARY 17, 2021
SAI FACEBOOK PAGE**

**A Pre-Recorded, Virtual Event/
<https://www.facebook.com/SocialActionInc.IA>**

SaYes2Poetry will close the show with a poetic tribute to the DREAM.



For more information: saiinc2003@gmail.com



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
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