

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIII | JANUARY 31, 2021 | No. 38

From the Pews, Cathy Bailey

Mark 2: 13-17
Jesus calls Levi

How can I, a sinner, follow Jesus' will in my life?

I have the example of his life on earth. I have the examples of those he called while he was living among us. I have the examples of those that have faithfully followed since his resurrection.

I think he respects the courage it takes to follow him. He puts himself and his disciples squarely in the middle of the fray of our humanity. Through every hardship, he leads us forward. That is his promise.

This biblical text tells us Jesus called Levi, a despised tax collector, as he walked by his tax booth. Then our Lord went to Levi's home and ate with him, and those who many considered, his disreputable friends. Jesus knew Levi inside and out. He knew this tax collector would follow. He knew Levi would measure up. Jesus was with him every step of the way. Pharisees were watching. Jesus taught, by action and by word. He came for the sinners, not for the righteous.

The Bible shows us those he called did not fully understand his mission. At times, they faltered and told him they really were not up to the tasks he set before them. They did not always want him to go through with his holy objective. They even, at times, denied their unique relationship with him to others.

They remained human, yet so loved by Jesus, and saved by his grace, that he transformed them and moved them forward with him.

From our very creation, we, his people, have sinned. Still, he calls us. Still, he remains with us. He turns our expectations of our God and our world upside down. The first shall be last. The marginalized, the despised, can be exalted. Levi, the tax collector became Matthew, the disciple.

He calls his people over and over again. We, today, must continue to confess our sins. We must acknowledge our mistakes. We must work to change the social injustices we have created. We must right the wrongs we know to be of our own making. Christ is with us. We have been called.

It will never be easy. We might have to give up the world's idea of power. We might get hurt. We may not live to see all of the fruits of Jesus' love in action. Contemporary disciples, Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis did not. So many others throughout the ages did not. But their willingness to follow Jesus has changed our world for the better. We must begin where Jesus and the disciples before us have brought us. Jesus is with us too, and he is in charge. We must continue the journey he sets before us. I pray for his courage and his will for us all. And I thank God every day for the disciples in our midst, right here, right now.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 31, 2021 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | 9a & 11:15a wpc-online.org



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Preparation for **Worship**

O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help; in all our uncertainties your guidance; in all our dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Prelude *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* arr. Smith

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minute for Stewardship

Kathryn Rowan

Call to Worship

Psalm 51:10-12, 15

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Let us worship God!

Hymn #475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Holy God, forgive us for seeing ourselves as righteous when we are fallen.

**You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering
from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.**

**Cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires.**

**Set us free from a past we cannot change;
open us to a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Presentation
Questions to the Parents
Question to the Congregation
Thanksgiving over the Water
Baptism
Prayer

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Anthem "Create In Me a Clean Heart" arr. Johnson
Prayer for Illumination
Epistle Lesson, Romans 7:19-25a
Gospel Lesson, Mark 1:21-28
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Sermon "A New Teaching"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith, *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #296

WONDROUS LIGHT

"Go in Grace and Make Disciples"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Praise the Lord"

Karg-Elert

LEADING WORSHIP

Ben Dorr, preaching

Lauren Slingerland, liturgist

Mary Ashmore, sponsor

Nancy Smith, organist

Katie Knauer, Diana Dailey, Derek Pitman, Mark Kemp, vocalists

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Miles Gray Fisher* and *Taylor James Fisher, Jr.*, sons of Taylor & Gypsy Fisher.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

The birth of a daughter, *Anna Noelia Andres*, to Jorge Andres Amo & Holly Vanderwal in Greenville on 1/18/2021.

We Remember in Prayer

Donyelle Wilkins on the death of her mother, Judy Burton, in Inman, SC - 1/21/2021.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING • JANUARY 31

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for January 31. The purpose of the meeting is to elect twelve elders to the class of 2024, one trustee to fill an unexpired term for the class of 2025, to vote on the 2021 terms of call for the pastoral staff, and to receive the 2021 operating budget.

The names of the Session nominees are the following:

Hastings Blumer
Jay Culclasure
Ross Glidewell
Jara Jones
Meg McKnight
Kate Weaver Patterson
Toni Paylor
Neil Shurley
Keith Stevenson
Lesley Usher
LeAnne White
Russ Williams

The nominee for trustee is Paul Grier.

The meeting will be held entirely over Zoom at 1 pm. Zoom information was sent to the congregation this week via email. The meeting ID and Passcode are below. If you would like assistance with how to use Zoom, please contact the church office.

Meeting ID: 936 3637 4172

Passcode: 300863

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FAMILY EVENT

Come make a bird feeder to care for creation on Sunday, January 31. Stop by the WWS loop on Westminster Drive from 2:30-4:30p to make a bird feeder or pick up materials to take home. All families with children 5th grade or younger are welcome to join us! Contact Lauren Slingerland for more details.

YOUTH BOOK CLUBS

Join us this Sunday morning, January 31st, from 10-11 am for Book Club via Zoom. Lauren Hood will be leading our Middlers in discussions on *What Lane?* and Mary Kathleen Duncan will be leading our Senior Highs in a discussion on *All American Boys*. Come to one or all! We'd love to see you there.

SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Pastor's Zoom Bible Study resumes this Sunday, January 24, at 10 am and will run through early May. Leigh Stuckey will lead participants in engaging and provoking discussions based on the texts of the day. We hope you will join us.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 918 5587 5662

Passcode: 785672

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 2, at 7pm. Contact Ellen Stevenson (ellens7377@gmail.com) for meeting log-in information. Beth Holladay Edwards will lead our discussion of *All Fall Down* by Jennifer Weiner. Please join us! New attendees are always welcome.

JUSTFAITH: FAITH AND RACIAL HEALING

Zoom meetings have resumed and will continue through Monday, March 22 at 6p. For information, previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262).

Hiking Group

The Hiking Group will next hike to the top of Table Rock on Tuesday, February 2. Hike Leader: Ralph Bouton (ralphbouton@yahoo.com).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

WPCYG will be collecting money and food items for the Souper Bowl of Caring this year and we invite church members of all ages to help us! You may send a check to the church any time before February 15th with the designation, "Souper Bowl of Caring." You may also use the Souper Bowl of Caring payment portal on our website to give electronically from 2/1-2/15. **AND** you can drop off food items at one of three locations on Sunday, February 7th from 2-5pm. Donations will benefit our community partners at United Ministries and Harvest Hope Food Bank this year.

Locations

- back loop of Westminster Weekday School on Westminster Drive
- far end of Camelot parking lot, closest to McAlister Square
- driveway between 211 E Park Ave and the attorney office next door

Food items needed:

- canned meats (chicken, tuna, stew, salmon)
- canned green beans, corn, peas, fruit, potatoes, pasta, soup, beans
- cereal, grits, oatmeal, peanut butter, rice, macaroni and cheese, powdered milk, saltines, Ramen noodle packets

GIVING HEARTS • Financial Update@WPC

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, January 25, we have received \$2,288,871 in pledges toward our 2021 budget goal of \$2,513,715.

For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS January 31 - February 6, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY

- 9:00 a.m. **Online Worship Service**
10:00 a.m. **Zoom Sunday Bible Study**
Zoom Middler Book Club
Zoom Senior High Book Club
11:15 a.m. **Online Worship Service**
1:00 p.m. **Zoom Annual**
Congregational Meeting
2:30 p.m. **Children's Ministry Family Event**

TUESDAY

- 12:00 p.m. **Zoom Administrative**
Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. **Zoom Book Club Meeting**

At the recommendation of the Covid-19 Task Force, indoor meetings at Westminster are not taking place at this time. Please see digital communications for online meeting information.

Mark Kemp
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