

**Westover View
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
May 2022**



Pastor Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry



Dear Westover Family,

As I'm working on this newsletter message I am sitting in North Carolina under a sapphire blue sky, listening to the first birds of spring echo in the mountains. And earlier today I saw a young black bear, skinny from a winter's hibernation, walking

through the woods nearby. Spring is all around us.

I am always in awe of spring. No matter what is happening in the world or in our lives, we can always count on spring to bring new life, new color, and a touch of hope.

Two years ago right now, we were all coming to terms with the fact that the pandemic that we thought would last a week or two at most, was going to be with us a while. As we were all struggling with that new reality of masks and distancing and lockdown procedures, the leaves began to peek out on the trees, the birds began to build their nests, and nature went about its business of springtime renewal without missing a beat. Even today as war ravages the countryside in Ukraine, I would wager there are tender green leaves on the plants and the soft chirping birds in the air. Beneath the acrid stench of smoke, the aroma of flowers and freshly growing grass sweetens the air.

Whatever else is happening, Spring is relentless in its march each year.

It is no mistake that we associate the season of spring with the theological idea of hope. In addition to the miracle of Easter, we have the chorus of creation reminding us once again that life always emerges from lifelessness. It's easy to forget in a world that is so torn apart by hardship and sorrow that we are called to live lives of bold hope. In fact, we are called to have hope that is as relentless as spring.

Holding on to that kind of hope is not only something that we do for ourselves. It is also a gift for the world around us. I know that in my life there are people

who have knocked on my door and loaned me a cup of hope when I was running a little low. And there are people whose doors where I have poured out a little of my own hope when people needed it. Just as creation emerges in a dance of interconnectedness every year, we live day in and day out in that human web of connection that Dr. King spoke of so eloquently half a century ago.

As we continue our journey into the season after Easter, my prayer for you is that you will find glimpses of hope of Christ in the world. I also pray that you will share those glimpses with the people around you and continue each day to sow more and more seeds of hope in the world.

As for me, my time here in the mountains always refills my cup of hope and peace. May we each find the moments that will fill our cups to overflowing.

In Christ,

Robert



Peace Rose - courtesy of Jane Estes (sent to her from Mary Estes, her mother-in-law).

WHPC Session Notes

Stated Session Meeting, March 13, 2022

The moderator, Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry, opened the meeting with prayer.

Session noted with sadness the death of member Martha Ann Branch on February 26, 2022.

Approved the following:

- revised annual statistical report. (Statistical information is available by calling the church office.)
- receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 20.
- the *Building Use Contract submitted by Jefferson Elementary for its graduation ceremony on May 25 and 26.*
- moving to Stage 3 of Covid re-opening, effective March 20. Stage 3 includes allowing the choir to sing anthems and the congregation to sing a third hymn, as well as continuing to require masks.
- Endorsed the policy adopted by the Preschool Committee to continue masking by Preschool staff and students.
- Scheduled the PW Birthday Offering for Mothers Day, May 8.

Heard the following:

- The 2022 budget has been approved; copies are available upon request to the church office or to Tammy Pflug.
- The 2022 Cotham lecturer will be Dr. Rachel Baard, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. She specializes in theology of the church in the proclamation of justice.
- There will be a reception on April 10 in honor of Pastor Robert's 3pm installation, Easter fellowship on April 17.
- The Presbyterian Women (PW) will hold the

Treats and Treasures (TNT) sale this year! Set up will be on Friday, July 29 and clean-up day on Aug. 15.

- The Reopening Group had endorsed enhancing WHPC capabilities to conduct hybrid meetings and events that offer both in person and Zoom connections.



Pounding for Pastor Rob

A “Welcome Home Pounding” was celebrated at the WHPC Family Chili Luncheon in honor of our new pastor, Robert Lowry, on Sunday, March 6. Grocery sacks full of non-perishable food items were collected and now will be donated to a local mission for feeding the hungry.

Pastor Robert and Brian chose El Zócalo, a new

outreach supported by the Westover Hills congregation, to receive the non-perishable food donated in their honor. Douglas Ponce, director of El Zócalo, was joyously overwhelmed with the generous amount of canned and packaged food. All of El Zócalo's shelves were filled and food was left over. The decision was made to give the extra food to Geyer Springs Methodist Church which serves surrounding low-income neighborhoods with two food pantries a week. Geyer Springs Methodist church graciously houses the El Zócalo program.



Pastor Rob's Installation Service



It's official! Pastor Robert is now the 6th installed pastor at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church! He follows Dick Hardie, David Dyer, Debbie and Jim Freeman, and Frank LeBlanc.

The installation commission was made up of Ministers of Word and Sacrament (MWS) and Ruling Elders (RE) from the Presbytery of Arkansas. They included current presbytery moderator MWS Susan Arnold (Wynne), MWS Brian Brock (Russellville Central), MWS Leslie Roper (Batesville First), RE Cynthia Lanphear (Harmony Clarksville), RE Catherine Lowry (Little Rock Second), and RE Ann Patterson (Westover Hills). MWS Martha Moore-Keish, J.B. Green Associate Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, preached the installation sermon.

Thanks be to God for the movement of the Holy

Spirit that has brought us together with Pastor Robert for a time of ministry together.





Deacons Nancy Blackstone and Carolyn Nash prepare Easter flower arrangements to be taken to Westover TLC members.



Easter/ Resurrection Sunday









Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to announce that the 2022 Cotham Lecturer will be Dr. Rachel Baard, who teaches theology and ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond. Dr. Baard is a native of South Africa and draws on her knowledge of that country's history of racial oppression in her work on theological perspectives on justice, liberation, and freedom. Her appearance at Westover will take place on October 15-17 and will coincide with the use in worship this fall of a number of biblical passages on those themes drawn from the Narrative Lectionary.

Submitted by David Stricklin - Ruling Elder,
Moderator of Christian Education Committee

Finance & Stewardship

Shredding Services

Westover Hills invited church members and families and friends to bring papers for free shredding on Saturday, March 19, from 9:00-11:00 am. The Stewardship Committee sponsored this **FREE** shred day in the South (graveled) parking lot. Rock Solid Shredding Company brought a truck for safe, secure drive-by shredding. Individuals brought up to three boxes of papers to shred. Drivers stayed in their cars while volunteers dumped the papers into a shred bin which was transferred to the shred truck; boxes or bags were returned to vehicles. The Rock Solid Shredding Company provides free shredding to non-profit organizations.



Mission and Advocacy Committee

Mission and Advocacy Activities and Plans

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.'s special mission offering goes to local and international communities to address hunger, recovery from disasters, and self-help development. Three "minute for mission" announcements were made during April worship services and a mailing went out to every member of the congregation explaining the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The congregation has responded with \$3,145.00.

Election Signs

During the month of April, signs were placed on the church lawn encouraging people to vote in the primary election on May 24. Signs spoke about voting rights and responsibility for equity.



El Zócalo

During the month of May, Westover volunteers are partnering with volunteers from the El Zócalo community to offer activities addressing needs for food, clothing, and basic language skills.

The Box

WHPC Mission and Advocacy Committee is still collecting items for unsheltered people. We request warmer weather wear be donated and dropped off in the foyer in the church office, where a clearly marked sign indicates The Box. Place donations inside the box, which routinely is emptied and distributed for use by the unsheltered. You can drop off anytime throughout the year, as The Box

will be an ongoing ministry. Suggested donations, for now, include blankets, hats, underwear, T-shirts, pants, socks (especially for women), and sunscreen.

Easter Lunch at the Stewpot

Stewpot served a special Easter lunch on Thursday, April 14. The food consisted of gourmet macaroni and cheese with ham, potatoes and green beans, and a fruit salad. Multiple homemade cookies were available for dessert. The regular Second Thursday team prepared the food, and The First Wednesday team served the lunch and included Charlie and Charlotte Frith, Nancy Carter, Tammy Pflug, Scott Hiers, and Dwane Tankersley. The weather was delightful and the dogwood trees and azaleas were beautiful in the courtyard near the food service. The diners certainly enjoyed their Easter feast.





Westover Hills
PRESCHOOL.



Preschool News

Spring has sprung in the preschool. From mapping out where to go for spring break to practicing "round up" skills, the kids love the warmer weather and sunshine.

Currently, we are registering for our Summer Play Days. Start date is June 7. If you would like

information, please email the preschool
at Westoverhillspreschool@gmail.com



Donate to the Preschool

Do you shop at Kroger? Is your Kroger card linked to Westover Hills Preschool community rewards? (The bottom of your grocery receipt will show to whom you are

linked.)

Kroger will donate \$.05 for every grocery dollar that you spend to the recipient of your choice. Check it out by going to the Kroger website <http://www.kroger.com> and click on “rewards” to choose the Preschool to receive the Community Rewards bonus. It will not affect your discounts or gas points.

Last year Kroger donated \$199.41 to the Preschool; can you help increase that total? Your help is appreciated! Call Shawn Mitteldorf at 501.666.0880 or Laura Whitmore at 501.416.5559 if you have questions.

Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women honored Deanine Rogers with a lifetime membership, a Whitmore Pre-Scholarship donation, and lots of good wishes prior to her move to Topeka. Deanine was PW moderator for several years and a dedicated Westover volunteer. L to R, Deanine, Kay Stephens, treasurer, and Donna Callaway, current moderator.

PW Horizons Bible Study 2021-2022

The Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible Study for 2021-2022, which started in September, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus," was written by Meryll Blair, a writer from Australia.

Our next and final lesson will be Lesson 9, "What Are These Women Doing in a Place Like This?," scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, by Zoom at 7 pm. The scripture lessons will be from Matthew 1.

Even if you do not have a book, the scripture lesson will be sent out so you can still enjoy being a part of the study group.

The following is the Zoom link for each month's lesson:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87286803474?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87286803474?pwd=MXhLREF1ejdTNDZK1hDU3V2c3oxZz09)

[pwd=MXhLREF1ejdTNDZK1hDU3V2c3oxZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87286803474?pwd=MXhLREF1ejdTNDZK1hDU3V2c3oxZz09)

Meeting ID: 872 8680 3474

Passcode: WHPC2021

+1 312 626 6799 US

+1 346 248 7799 US

Meeting ID: 872 8680 3474

Passcode: 41278796

An email reminder, with the Zoom link, will be sent out a few days prior to the study lesson. Hope to see everyone. -- Kay Stephens

Incarcerated Program



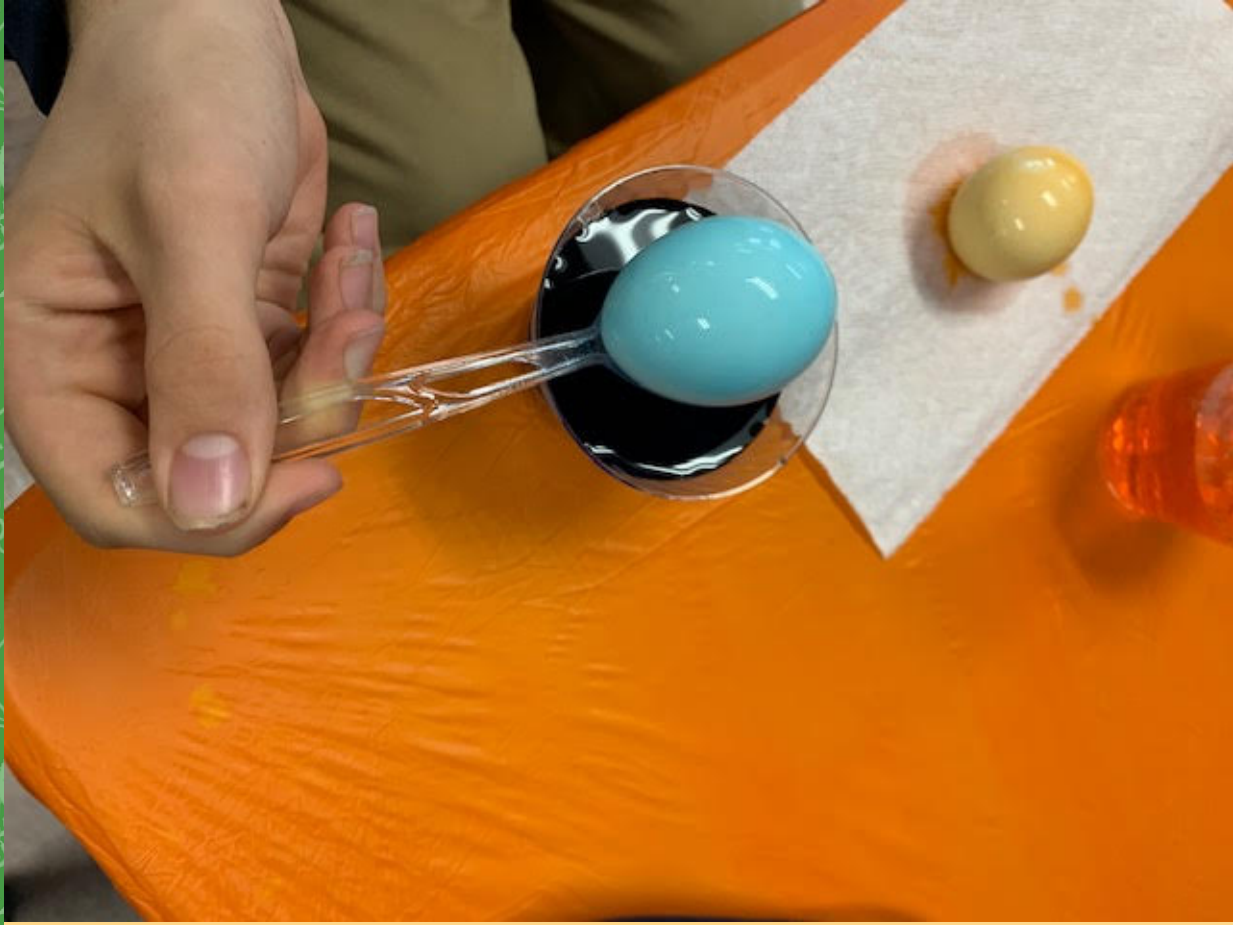
Incarcerated Update

Our jail programs now include partnerships with the Arkansas Incarcerated Women's Project, Restore Hope, and Pulaski County Sheriff Higgins' Re-entry program, CSI. Kathy Rateliff is teaching creative writing to the women of CSI, and co-teaching a class focusing on Ativa Yoga-Meditation (Katherine Shoulders & Janna Knight), and Reading, Writing, Book Club (Kathy's area) for both CSI and Restore Hope men's class. There will be 40-45 students in each class.

There are about 120 students taking the classes. They are motivated, interested, and ready to move forward with their lives. Project Restore Hope prepares them for release and gives them access to treatment for addictions. The program helps them to find jobs, and deal with family issues, housing, and other services that a case worker determines would benefit the student.

We hope to offer regular literacy programs to inmates after staffing issues resolve. It seems that every facility, business, etc. is in need of workers.

The Pulaski County Juvenile Detention Center Art program is ongoing with recent projects including faux stained glass butterflies, and dyeing Easter eggs.

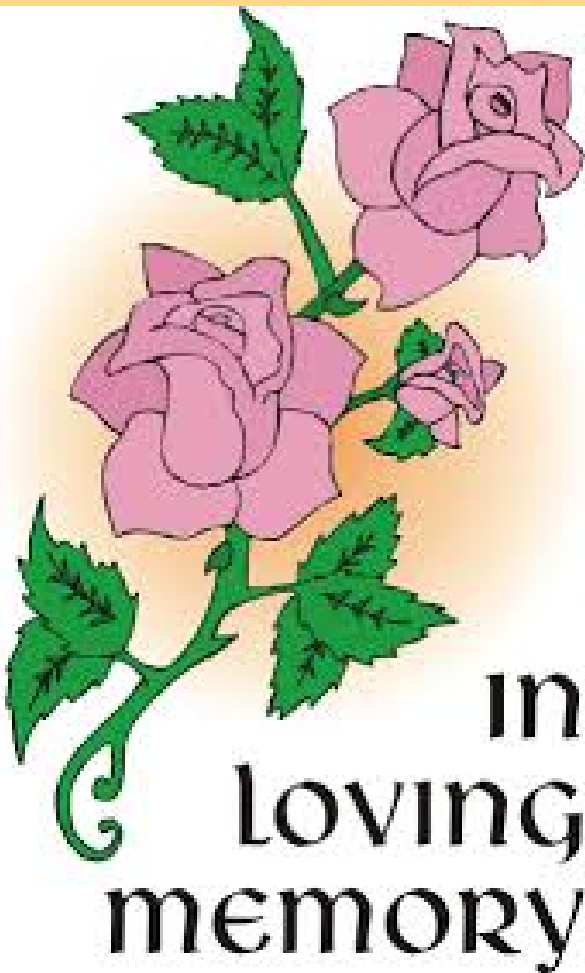


Teens work on dyeing their Easter eggs during an April art class. Along with treats from the big bunny, the kids also ate their eggs as PW volunteer Nancy Passini read *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* to them!





Honoraria



Memorials for March/ April 2022

Martha Branch

- Betty Glenn for PW Mission and Vera Lloyd
- Westover Hills Presbyterian Women
- Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldng Fund
- Kathy Murdovic, Marie O'Lynn, John Branch
- Regina Barton
- Laura & Fred Whitmore for Bldng Fund
- Ann Bell for Memorial Fund

Roger Short

- Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldng Fund

Honor Gift for March/ April 2022

Deanine Rogers

- Whitmore Pre-school Scholarships
-