



WESTMINSTER

presbyterian church | epc

GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

May 2021

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LIFEHOUSE YOUTH UPDATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH DIRECTOR ALICE BELLANGER: LifeHouse Youth Group will meet May 2, 16, and 23. On April 25, we had a wonderful meeting with food provided by the Hopkins family. Our discussion focused on acceptance. The Bible verses we studied were Colossians 3:12-14; Matthew 6:25-32; and John 3:16.

LifeHouse will be conducting two fundraisers to support the youth that are going to supper camp at French Camp Academy in July. The first one will be an envelope fundraiser, which will be ongoing. There will be envelopes on a decorated board in the Narthex, and people may contribute according to the dollar amount on the envelope. The second will be a baked-potato to-go bar after church on May 23. The youth group will provide the baked potatoes with all the accompaniments and each potato will be \$7.00.

This summer we are planning to do at least one service project and one "fun outing" about every other week. We are looking into walking dogs at the Humane Society, volunteering at Feed My Sheep or possibly visiting with senior citizens.

We are planning a Youth Sunday service sometime in August, so stay tuned for that!!

CAMP OF THE RISING SON
 at
FRENCH CAMP ACADEMY



This year, the newsletter has shifted from "institutional" content to much more reader-submitted content. The story of Westminster, which we know has been written by God himself, belongs to its members and friends: Please help tell it! If you take pictures of an event or have an idea for an article, please send it to office@gulfportchurch.org or call (228) 864-3143. Please know that due to space limitations and mission focus, submissions may have to be edited or held for a future edition.

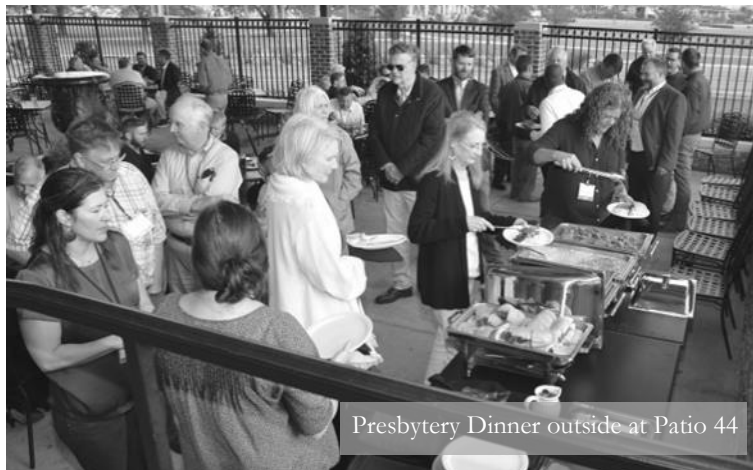
GULF SOUTH PRESBYTERY MEETING

Westminster hosted the 20th stated meeting of the Gulf South Presbytery in Gulfport April 23-24. More than 100 commissioners and guests travelled from as far west as San Antonio and as far east as the Mobile area to attend. The meeting focused on providing presbytery members an opportunity for rest, renewal, and relationship-building. On Friday, pastors gathered for a special retreat that focused on the renewal of ordination vows and closed with serving lunch at Feed My Sheep. The presbytery convened with a traditional service of worship led by Pastor Will and organist Bob Chism. Pastor Jonathan Wagner of Covenant Presbyterian in Monroe, La., celebrated the Lord's Supper, and Westminster members Karen Barnard and Anna Cuevas participated in leadership. Pastor Gerrit Dawson of First Presbyterian in Baton Rouge and Ruling Elder Brandon Queen of First Presbyterian Thibodaux led a seminar on how to approach the growing secular field of critical theory with an alternative view of Biblical reconciliation. The presbytery adjourned to Patio 44 for dinner. On Saturday, Medical Benevolence Foundation, one of Westminster's long-time mission partners, sponsored a pastor's breakfast, during which pastors shared the most influential books they have read recently. The presbytery reconvened with worship that was ordered around the movement of the 23rd Psalm and included homiliticians from First Presbyterian of Meridian, First Presbyterian of Houma, First Presbyterian of Port Gibson, and First Presbyterian of Baton Rouge. The presbytery adjourned at 11 a.m., with several notes of thanks to Westminster for its hospitality and warmth.





Presbytery Pastors volunteering at Feed My Sheep



Presbytery Dinner outside at Patio 44



Presbytery Dinner outside at Patio 44

CUB SCOUT PACK 209:

Westminster's Cub Scouts have been busy the last month! Along with Westminster's Girl Scout Troop 3542, and boy and girl scouts from across the southern half of Mississippi, the boys and their families enjoyed the first-ever "Scouts and the Symphony" program hosted by the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra on April 17.

The cub scouts also learned about "Hometown Heroes" on April 19 by having the opportunity to visit with Gulfport Police Chief Chris Ryle, firefighter Will Harris, Gulfport School District teacher Kelli McGuffee, Oscher trauma department head Bobby Bellanger, and Pastor Lee Floyd.

In May, the cub scouts will participate in a campout at the Harrison County Sheriff's Farm May 1-2; host their annual Blue and Gold Banquet May 15 at Westminster; attend the rescheduled Scout Sunday worship service at Westminster May 16; and celebrate their graduation May 22.



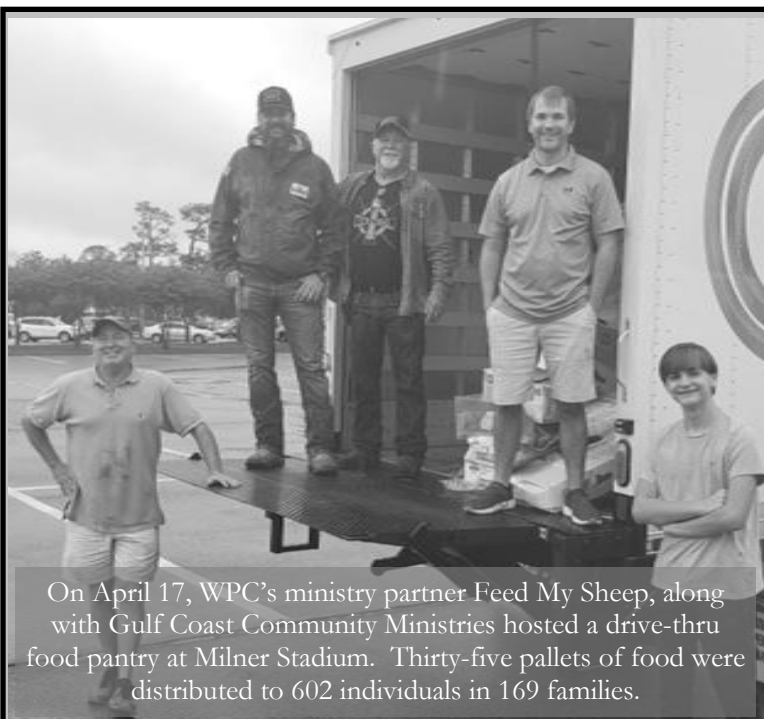
Cub Scouts April Meeting with "Hometown Heroes"



Girl Scouts April Meeting

HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE'S SCAM AND FRAUD PREVENTION

Lt. Rob Lincoln of the Harrison County Sheriff's Office offered a seminar at Westminster on fraud prevention for senior citizens on April 13. He discussed the rising number of scams that target seniors, including telephone callers impersonating grandchildren and emails that purportedly originate from churches. Particularly, seniors should be aware of any person--even if it appears to be someone well-known--asking for gift cards, as these are untraceable once purchased. Lincoln also offered participants personal safety items such as reflective address signs, whistles, battery-powered light bulbs, bath grab bars, and files of life.



On April 17, WPC's ministry partner Feed My Sheep, along with Gulf Coast Community Ministries hosted a drive-thru food pantry at Milner Stadium. Thirty-five pallets of food were distributed to 602 individuals in 169 families.



COAST ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP

The Coast Ecumenical Fellowship hosted its first in-person gathering since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic on April 14. Nearly 20 local pastors and church leaders gathered in Westminster's fellowship hall for prayer and a discussion about local churches' plans for ministry as COVID-19 cases continue to decline.

DR. & MRS. C. A. WALKER, JR. SCHOLARSHIP

The Dr. & Mrs. C.A. Walker, Jr. Scholarship Foundation is receiving applications for scholarships to individuals attending college. Applications must be received by May 10, 2021. Applicants are invited to apply by sending a scholarship request along with your college plans to:

Dr. & Mrs. C. A. Walker, Jr. Scholarship Foundation
c/o Westminster Presbyterian Church
5005 Lawson Ave.
Gulfport, MS 39507

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The sign up sheet for Sanctuary flowers is posted on the bulletin board next to the nursery. **NEW:** A link to an online sign up chart is now available at gulfportchurch.org.



amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Westminster has an Amazon Smile account. To learn how to earn money for Westminster while shopping on Amazon (at no extra cost to you), call the church office or see Jane Bloss.



GATHER & GO: JESUS & THE GREAT COMMISSION SERMON SERIES FOR SUMMER 2021 BEGINS MAY 9

It's no secret: The Christian church in the West is shrinking. There are any number of reasons why. But what are we, at Westminster, supposed to do about it? And why is it important that we do, in fact, do something about it? This summer, we will take a close look at the Great Commission, Matthew's account of Jesus's last words to his followers, and explore the power of and methods behind Christ's simple command to go and make disciples of all nations.

Gather

Week One: Matthew 28:16

"An Imperfect Church with a Perfect Commission"

Week Two: Matthew 28:17

"Worshipping and Wavering"

Week Three: Matthew 28:18 (Part 1)

"You Can't Go It Alone"

Week Four: Matthew 28:18 (Part 2)

"The Universal CEO"

Go

Week Five: Matthew 28:19a

"The Church Has Left the Building"

Week Six: Matthew 28:19b

"Revival and Relationships"

Week Seven: Matthew 28:19c

"Bringing Them In: Baptism Matters"

Week Eight: Matthew 28:20a

"Teaching Them: Theology Matters"

Week Nine: Matthew 28:20b

"There Is a Future: And Jesus Is There"

ONLINE AND APP-BASED GIVING

Westminster is now set up for online and app-based giving. Visit gulfportchurch.org to give online, or download the secure Tithely app from Android or Apple to your phone and search for Westminster to give via app. Gifts can be made through credit card, debit card or bank transfer, and can be set up on a recurring basis. Tithely does charge a small fee for each transaction: You will have the option to add to your gift to cover these fees. Westminster is grateful to everyone who has pledged and/or given his or her financial support to keep this Christian ministry alive and robust for generations to come. For more information about Westminster's financial health, please see Stewardship chairman Wayne Tisdale or Treasurer Jane Bloss.



TITHE.LY



May

3 Camille Williams
4 Chad Bryant
4 Tristan Mahand
6 Caroline Underhill
9 Colt Busby
16 Owen Bellanger
23 Donna Gewin
23 Christine Mahand
24 Stacey Curry
24 Virginia Shurley
25 Rena Dukes
30 Cummings King

June

1 Connie McCabe
8 Sara Beth Gregory
8 Haynes Nault
8 Hudson Williams
12 Sophia Batson
13 Karen Barnard
17 Mike Skeen
19 Linda Necaise
21 Analeise Williams
23 Eliza Williams
24 Eddie Wilson
27 Summer Hewes
29 Walter Dukes

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH:

Budgeted Income:	\$12,466.02
Budgeted Expenses:	\$20,657.68
Loss for month	\$ 8,191.66

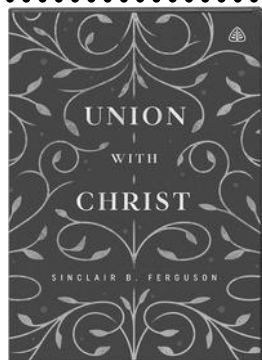
So, we had a loss. For March, anticipated income was about half of what it should have been. But remember January? Income was over twice what was expected. So, as you can see, income can vary widely from month to month. We anticipate this, and maintain spending in accordance with the unified budget.

What is the Unified Budget??

Westminster has implemented the unified budget for over 30 years. Each November, the Session committees decide on their plans for the following year, submitting a budget for the funds they need to carry out the various missions and ministries of our church. Then, one budget is prepared. We don't have separate accounts to raise funding for Missions, Sunday School, operational expenses, etc. We operate under this one unified budget and we ask you for pledges toward that budget. We also promise not to ask for special offerings during the year, as many churches do, unless approved by the session. . All donations to the church are ordinarily applied toward meeting this budget.

SUNDAY FUNDAY: Church friends can become best friends! Sunday School for children and youth happens each week at 9:15 a.m. Students have been working through the foundation of the Christian faith by studying the Exodus and the 10 plagues. Sunday School classes are safe: Rooms are thoroughly cleaned, students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer, and masks are provided for any participants that does not have one.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. led by Pete Bloss in person and via Zoom.

The Adult Sunday School class led by Elder Pete Bloss is studying the video-based study by Dr. Sinclair Ferguson, "Union with Christ." *The Zoom meeting ID number is 817 0590 9102, contact Pete at 228-861-0817 if you have issues or are prompted to give a password.*

Class description: The Apostle Paul had no question about what it meant to be a Christian: he was "in Christ." This simple phrase encapsulates the glorious benefits and blessings of the Christian life, and the importance of this expression is underscored by how regularly Paul used it. But many Christians today suffer from an identity crisis, unaware of this truth and how this new identity can reshape every aspect of their lives. In this teaching series, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson explores the crucial meaning of our union with Christ, revealing that being a Christian is far more wonderful than many of us know.

VIRTUAL HYMN SINGS MOST SUNDAYS AT 5:30 P.M.



Do you love old hymns? Join Pastor Will and Anna Kate for a virtual hymn sing most Sunday afternoons at 5 p.m. on Facebook Live or on the church's website, gulfportchurch.org. During the live stream, you can send your favorite hymns, and if they have them in a hymnal at their home, Will and Anna Kate will do their level best to play and sing one for you!

FEED MY SHEEP ROUTE VOLUNTEERS: Westminster has sponsored a home delivery route for Feed My Sheep for many years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, LeAnn Davis has filled in regularly for Westminster members who ordinarily volunteered for the route, but were unable to do so due to health concerns. As Westminster members receive their vaccines, or otherwise become more comfortable with venturing out from home, we are looking for volunteers who would like to return to the route, or explore beginning for the first time. Please contact LeAnn at (228) 864-3143 or Westminster's route captain, Rachel Price, at (228) 864-5737 for more information.



COMMITTEES AND STANDING MEETING DATES:

Congregational Life: Meets the 1st Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Ted Hammer, Chairperson, (228) 313-2167, coasthoosier@gmail.com

Discipleship Formation: Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Mary Ellen Thornhill, Chairperson, (228) 868-3605

Missions & Outreach: Meets the 1st Monday at 7 p.m. Pat West, Chairperson, patricia.west@mgccc.edu, (228) 233-5670

Nominating: Meets as needed. *Do you know a member who has the spiritual giftedness to serve as an elder?* Please contact Pat West, Chairperson, at patricia.west@mgccc.edu or (228) 233-5670.

Property: Meets the 3rd Tuesday during the day. Karen Barnard, Chairperson, (228) 669-0317, kebarnard55@gmail.com

Stewardship: Meets the 3rd Wednesday at 10 a.m. Wayne Tisdale, Chairperson, lwaynetisdale@gmail.com, (228) 861-5795

Worship: Meets the 1st Monday after Communion Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Dave Carlson, Chairperson, (770) 312-4581, carlson7457@bellsouth.net

May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25 Children's Sunday School <i>in-person</i> , 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>in-person & via Zoom</i> , 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Lifehouse Youth: 5-7 p.m. Hymn Sing <i>via Facebook</i> , 5:30 p.m.	26	27 Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	28	29	30	1
2 Children's Sunday School <i>in-person</i> , 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>in-person & via Zoom</i> , 9:15 a.m. Communion Sunday / Worship, 10:30 a.m. Lifehouse Youth: 5-7 p.m. Hymn Sing <i>via Facebook</i> , 5:30 p.m.	3 Worship Committee, 6:30 p.m. Missions Committee, 7 p.m.	4 Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Congregational Life, 5:30 p.m.	5	6	7	8
 9 Children's Sunday School <i>in-person</i> , 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>in-person & via Zoom</i> , 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. No LifeHouse Youth Hymn Sing <i>via Facebook</i> , 5:30 p.m.	10	11 Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Discipleship Formation, 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Scouts Blue-Gold Banquet
16 Children's Sunday School <i>in-person</i> , 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>in-person & via Zoom</i> , 9:15 a.m. Scout Sunday / Worship, 10:30 a.m. Lifehouse Youth: 5-7 p.m. Hymn Sing <i>via Facebook</i> , 5:30 p.m.	17 Cub Scouts, 6 p.m.	18 Prayer Group, 10 a.m. Property Committee Meeting	19 Stewardship Committee, 10 a.m. Session, 7 p.m.	20	21	22 Scouts Graduation
23 Children's Sunday School <i>in-person</i> , 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>in-person & via Zoom</i> , 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Youth Baked Potato Fundraiser after morning worship. Lifehouse Youth: 5-7 p.m.	24	25 Prayer Group, 10 a.m. 	26	27	28	29
30 Children's Sunday School <i>in-person</i> , 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School <i>in-person & via Zoom</i> , 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. No Lifehouse Youth Hymn Sing <i>via Facebook</i> , 5:30 p.m.	31  Church Office Closed	1 Prayer Group, 10 a.m.	2	3	4	5



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