

ABOUT WESTMINSTER

The WBTS website (www.wbts.org) includes factual information plus the current issue of the Spire. Sermons can be heard or read online, from podcasts, or on iTunes. More information including the calendar can be found on the website. Copies of sermons and current issues of the Spire can be found in the narthex. Our phone number is 386-767-8342; Fax 386-767-8341. The church office is open from 8:00-10:30 on Wednesdays to drop off or pick up items at the church. It is not a time to come in to visit. The phones are checked on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday so leave a message if there is anything you need.

Sundays

September to May we usually have services at 8:45 and 11:00 am. Currently, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all services are online.

Our Current Status

We are exploring a move to in-person worship in a limited capacity. Stay tuned for announcements as the Session makes these plans. We will continue to offer the same online services you've been seeing since March, so for many of you nothing will change. Since we are closed due to the Covid-19 virus, here is our current weekly (online) schedule:

Sunday - Each week we will offer a YouTube video of a full service at "wbts church", done in our sanctuary, that you may watch at your leisure. It will be released by 8:00 each Sunday and is available to watch at any time.

Go to www.wbts.org and click on the link at the top of the page (not the "Sermons" folder) We are periodically holding a virtual Zoom fellowship hour. Everyone on our email list gets an invitation to this. Join us as we keep up with one another's lives!

We are also offering Zoom Sunday School and weekday classes.

Tuesday – The Town Crier emails will be sent with announcements for the week.

Wednesday - we will release a Devotional on the Psalms by Rev. Sumner on YouTube at around 10:00 am for you to watch at your leisure. There is no accompanying paperwork for this.

Also on **Wednesday** evening at 7:00 we host a Zoom meeting for prayer time. You will be sent a link and you come a few minutes early to sign on. Why, you ask? We cannot announce people's names on our YouTube video and we know you'll still have prayer requests and concerns. You'll get a chance to name them and Jeff will do a prayer for all those named. You may stay on the line or hop off as you wish. If you would like an invitation please email Mary Ann at maflam@aol.com.

Thursday - we'll only send announcements if it is necessary

Friday - we'll send a bulletin and children's bulletin by email for the Sunday service along with a prayer list. You may print them out to use when you watch the service or play the service on your computer while you look at the bulletin on your phone or tablet - whatever works for you. If you can't do both, just watch the service. You'll know what's going on.

Fellowship Opportunities

Here are some of our fellowship or mission opportunities.

Fellowship Hour – we have been hosting virtual fellowship hours on Zoom. On weeks that we host it we will send out an invitation on Saturday evening. It's just for fun. Bring your own food and drink!

Caring Friends of Westminster

Grieving is normal and friendship and companionship are normal. We find that

this combination is healing. At Caring Friends we combine these at our meetings. Since March we have not been able to meet in person. However, Kitty and I want you to know that we are thinking of each and every one of you and pray that we will be able to meet in person soon. In the meantime, remember that your grief is normal and what you are going through is normal. No matter whether your grief seems too deep or too long-lasting you cannot make it go away any more than you can will a broken bone to knit overnight. A shattered heart needs two things before healing can happen: proper attention and sufficient time. In the meantime, it's going to hurt. Kitty and I both know this. It has been 11 years for both of us and believe me there are days that it still hurts. Hopefully we will be able to meet again in person soon. For now call either one of us if you just want to talk. Kitty – 308-3800 Marianne-- 236-8534

Men of Westminster will NOT MEET for our breakfast in October. We want everyone to follow the CDC guidelines, continue to keep a safe distance from others and stay home if necessary. Hopefully we will be able to meet again soon. In the meantime, pray for each other and for the dedicated leaders of our wonderful church. And, if any of The Men of Westminster would like an email address of the other Men to say hello or check in, just let me know.

Please contact Rodney Bookhardt at Rkbook@cfl.rr.com or 386 847 7871.

Outreach

Anne Nussle

The next food drive is scheduled for **Sunday, October 4 from 9:00-11:00**. The needed food items include: Dinty Moore beef stew, canned meat, corn, green beans, mixed vegetables, and canned fruit. We hope to see

you there! The food will be split between The Food Pantry and Solutions By The Sea

Halifax Urban Ministries (HUM)

We are currently not feeding meals at HUM. They are currently making box lunches and handing them out at the door. We'll let everyone know when we are allowed to go back to our monthly schedule.



The HUM Food Pantry at Grace Episcopal Church. Our faithful worker/reporter, Marianne Sabatka, has retired from working at the pantry. We still have some members working there and we'd be thrilled if one of them would give up monthly updates. We will continue to support them with our monthly drive-through food drives.

Worship

October Sermons

- 10/4 Pursuing the Prize
World Communion Sunday
- 10/11 Paul's Words of Gold
- 10/18 Let the Word of the Lord Sound Forth
- 10/25 The Nurse's Metaphor

Flowers

Since we are not meeting to worship at the church, we are not needing flowers right now. But we will once we are back to our regular services.

Choir Notes

Anne Nussle

There is a life-giving Spirit in the music at Westminster by-the-Sea. We all may have the same yearning for the community that is built by creating it together. In his book, *This Is Happiness*, Niall Williams states, "... music ... is not life, can never be as full, rich, complex, surprising, or beautiful, but ... it can catch an echo of that, can turn you back to look out the window, go out the door aware that you've been enriched, that you have been in the company of something alive that has

caused you to realize once again how astonishing life is, and you leave with that illuminating, which feels holy, ... with human raptness." At some point we will sing together again. Hold fast to the memories of our past and look forward to our future.

Congregational Life

Gayle Osiborski

The Congregational Life Committee continues to enjoy our Fellowship Hour on Sundays at noon through Zoom. We have been enjoying many new faces each week as well as the usual participants. It is so nice to see everyone and catch up with each other for the week. One of the fun spots of our hour is the weekly travel tip from our very own Laura Jones. She has visited quite a few localities here in Florida that are just about an hour's drive from our area. Laura has seen museums, murals, parks, and more that sound lovely to visit. Several of us have been unaware of these places. The locations she visits are safe and a great opportunity to get to know Florida. Please check in any Sunday and see where she has visited next or catch up with any of the places she has already visited. You will surely be inspired to take a trip.

Also, we would like to remind everyone of the food drive being sponsored by our dedicated youth. It is on Sunday, October 4, from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Our youth group and their leaders do a wonderful job supporting the people in our community. The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank them for their efforts and commitment during this time of need for many in our area. If you need support or comfort, please keep our Prayer Meetings on Wednesday evenings in mind. We meet at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Many prayers have been answered and are continually being heard each week.

Please feel free to reach out to Sandy Reppert at (386) 763-3875 or Gayle Osiborski at (386) 760-9987 for a friendly conversation or just

to feel connected to someone. We would enjoy hearing from you!!

Administration

Financial Refection Through September we have an income higher than our expenses. Part of that savings is the lack of in person activity. YOU have lifted up the hearts of our Pastors and staff with your continued support. We will continue to use funds wisely where necessary, and generously where possible. Please consider continuing your support of Westminster By-The-Sea Church. Thank you.



Hello Library Fans! In keeping with the theme of **JOY**, I want to let you know that our church library has lots of books to help you find joy and happiness. One of the titles is: *The joy of believing prayer: deepen your friendship with God*, by Joyce Meyer. Joyce looks at the other side of the coin in *Seven things that steal your joy: overcoming the obstacles to your happiness*. Three other joy books are: *Making sense of humor: how to add joy to your life*, by Lila Green, *Lightposts for living: the art of choosing a joyful life*, by Thomas Kinkade (yes, he's the artist), and *Simple abundance: a daybook of comfort and joy*, by Sarah Ban Breathnach. The famous author C.S. Lewis (known as Jack by his friends), who turned from atheism to devout Christianity, shares his account of Joy in this work: *Surprised by joy: the shape of my early life*. Barbara Johnson, a humorous author, suffered a lot in her life through a string of tragedies. Her husband was in a near fatal accident and slowly recovered from debilitating injuries. She lost one son in Vietnam and another son to a drunk driver. Her third son was estranged from the family while pursuing a homosexual lifestyle. She emerged from these experiences having

learned that though pain is inevitable, people can choose to pick flowers (geraniums are joy for her) instead of weeds. She shares how she did it in her work *Splashes of joy in the cesspools of life*. Our library has 10 of her inspiring books. If you are looking for books on Joy, our library is the place to come. Contact Linda at JacobsL221@yahoo.com, if you want any of these books and she will see that you get them right away.



Seminar on Depression

Tuesday, October 27th at 10:00 am; repeated at 7:00 p.m.

To be held on Zoom

Rescheduled from April and placed into a Zoom format, Dr. W. Daniel Hale, advisor to the President of Johns Hopkins Medical Center, Bayview, and former Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Department at Stetson University, will offer two identical seminars featuring his new book on Depression. He not only has dealt with his own depression, and his own daughter's depression, but depression was the focus of his doctoral work. He would love having people for the seminar who have read the book and are ready to hear his comments and ask questions. I (Rev. Sumner) was asked to proofread his materials, give him feedback, and review of his book. I recommend it. Should you wish, you can purchase the book "DEPRESSION: OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND INTO THE LIGHT" from a local bookstore, Amazon, or any other source. We expect each seminar to last 60-75 minutes. If you know others who would like to be on this Zoom discussion, please send names and emails to me at sumnerj@aol.com and we'll add them to the call. I believe this will be a

worthwhile gathering of our minds and experiences.

Cooking During the Coronavirus with Chef Mark Bartell - a virtual event

Join us on online as Chef Bartell gives helpful and tasty tips for some wonderful meals. You can watch when you can and pause if you need to as you create some delicious food for yourself! This seminar will be presented beginning October 1! Go to wbts.org and click on the link or search "wbts church" on YouTube. The Chef hopes you can join him.



Travel With Us **2021 Church Cruise**

NCL Escape, voted 2017 Ship of the Year by Ocean and Cruise News

7 Day Eastern Caribbean, January 30-February 6, 2021; bus from the church.

Dominican Republic, St. Thomas, Tortola, Great Stirrup Cay.

Enjoy 5 perks, and more! Great rates!

Call Lori at Cruise Holidays, 386-322-2222 for details.

Journey Through the Bible 2021 (Jeff Sumner) It might be hard to think about travel right now, but there will be times for safe travel in the future! Our Holy Land 2021 trip is on track, a trip that many of you asked that we take again.

Visiting Jericho and Qumran, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Megiddo, Caesarea, Capernaum, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Magdala, Caesarea Philippi, Cana, Nazareth, and Jerusalem enriches your Christian reading of the Bible beyond measure!

Many of us will meet and park at the church; our church will pay for the transportation to the Orlando airport and back home. We plan to depart on July 12 and return on July 22, 2021. Our church website www.wbts.org, has a link to brochures, or Rev. Sumner can mail

you one. If you want one mailed, send an email to JSumner@wbts.org, or call 386-756-2111.



The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are with Dick Cunneen on the death of his wife Ann on September 28. Services will be at a later date.



People often say about someone they knew that "he never met a stranger." If you ever met Wilbert T. "Stu" Stewart, you know that is true. Sadly, for those who knew him, Stu departed this earth on August 4, 2020. Our faith teaches us that Stu is in a better place and that's not hard to imagine during a pandemic. While his physical health declined, his mind remained sharp. It was not possible for him to continue to attend services at Westminster by the Sea and for someone with a huge personality, that was perhaps the most difficult challenge to bear.

As donations to Halifax Urban Ministries began to arrive in his memory, HUM Executive Director Buck James stated, "I wish I had known Stu. It is clear from the number of people how have reached out to honor Stu what an impact he had on those around him". Stu wanted to be remembered as a patriot, a good citizen and a man who loved his family. He will be missed.

Picture Directory

We will have them available at the drive through food drive on October 4 if you'd like to pick one up then. Please have exact change or a check for \$3.00. We won't be making change.

Address changes

Rosella Dunkel
941 Village Trail, Apt. A316, Port Orange
32127
Email: rosellaharry53@gmail.com

Joyce Belcher
1834 Big Crane Loop, Port Orange 32128

Jan Corlett email address
janfruitlands@gmail.com

Ed & Edythe Johnson
2010 S Ridgewood Ave, Apt 64, Edgewater
32141



This month we asked you to tell us what brings you joy. We've been under the throes of the pandemic for many months and some of us see no end in sight. There is so much going on in the world today that seems frightening and futile and we need some good news. Thanks to all of you who replied and offered these words of joy.

It brings me joy to hear from friends and find they are doing well and happy. Taking a walk through the nature Our Lord created for us and using all my senses to feel His creation gives me joy. Angie Garant

The one thing that brings me joy is a smile on a child's face. There are others but that that one is a given. Jan Corlett

Knowing I am assured of God's Grace 24/7.
Remembering what started our 60+ year
romance.

Smelling a freshly opened rose.

Seeing a plain, green-leafed Orchid become
ALIVE with blooms.

Holding our newborn babies for the first time.

The peace of walking through the house to
our children's rooms late at night to watch
them safely sleeping.

Showing love to another human being that
seems to be beyond the need for it.

Seeing one grow into Christ's love.

Knowing that at any time, in any place, for
any reason, I have God's ear, through the love
and acceptance of being One in Christ

Joan Carter

Without a doubt, what brings me joy is time
spent with family and dear friends. Actually,
being around people in general brings me joy,
like visiting with our clients at the jewelry
store or chit-chatting with my church family
at fellowship hour. The pandemic has been
difficult for me because I miss the hugs and
the "volume" of people I would usually see in
my weekly life, but it is amazing how many
warm fuzzies you can get from being on a
Zoom call with family playing games or
with friends all doing a virtual crafts or with
church members during the Prayer Call or
virtual Fellowship Hour!!! You would think
that that kind of communication would be
sterile and cold, but I've found it to be a
lifesaver! Seeing and talking to people I care
about gives me that same happy feeling I get
when we're in person. Don't get me
wrong: I am truly looking forward to when all
this has passed! But until then, I can still get
my joy from my family and dear friends via
technology. Stacey Hill

JOY!! When my beautiful daughter Diane
was born, I was so happy when I saw her that
I named her Diane JOY French. When she

was young, she thought that was a silly
name. But when her daughter was born she
named her Danielle JOY. Looking at a sweet
new baby will always bring you JOY! I love
that JOY sign we have in Fellowship Hall
every Christmas. I'm sure Mary felt just like
Diane & me when she saw the baby
Jesus. Kitty French

I find joy in so many areas of life, yes, the
opportunities to feel less than joyful do try to
creep in... but I always remember I am most
thankful to start my day, "with Joy, the Lord
has given us a new day"! Sharon Willis

I have always been an optimist, looking for
double rainbows. When I was going through
a rough patch many years ago, I realized that
no matter what was going on around me there
was a core of joy deep inside that connected
me to something far greater, the negative stuff
was just temporary. This knowingness has
never left me and has helped me through
other difficult times. Singing brings that joy
to the surface ... one day I'll be in the celestial
choir. Madeline Day

In a word, clouds ... in more words, when I
walk the dog I do have to keep a lookout
around us for things that we'd like to avoid
(cars, stuff on the sidewalk, critters on the
side) but, all of those things that I'm looking
at on the ground are things to avoid. It's
important to pay attention to the things to
avoid, but, when I look up, I see the beauty
that is the sky. THAT'S where I choose to
focus my attention. It reminds me to live life
that way too. We always need to be aware of
the negative stuff, but choose to focus on the
stuff that brings a smile to your face and
warmth in your heart. Cecil Rice

These days, I am finding much joy in my art.
My meager talent is such a gift from the Lord,
and we have so much down time with Tom's
health issues that it provides a creative way to



refill my cup. This piece is entitled "Genesis". Is it the beginning of God's Creation, the miracle of a woman's womb awaiting conception, the Big Bang theory, or a very abstract flower? I have

Painted an exuberant interpretation of Our Lord's Creation of light and planets out of the dark void. I hope that the colors, textures, and composition will appeal to any person, but right now, expressing myself through art gives me great joy. Reenie Noden

Beach sunrises. Edith Moser

Joy for me is watching either beautiful sunrises or sunsets, with all of the red, orange, and pink colors that God uses to paint the sky, welcoming another day, or closing one. I thank him every time for letting me see yet another one. Linda Jacobs

One of the things that brings me joy is flamingoes (duh)! I have all kinds of them but I especially like seeing the real thing. They are contorted in such a weird way and their color is so vivid that I can't help but smile when I see them. I could watch them for hours. God has a great sense of humor! Mary Ann Sumner

Seeing our two beautiful girls growing up and succeeding in life and good coffee in the morning! Christie & Austin Ellis

Joy = music, the moon and my grands and great grandchildren. Sheila Sullivan



Our 11 week old mini Goldendoodle.
John and Tina Ericsson
(I had to include the picture – too adorable not to – the Editor)

Our children's laughter

Our siblings – Mark and I are very close to our brothers and sisters

Baking – I might not be very good at it but I really do enjoy baking

Bike Riding in the early morning

Playing board and card games

Gayle & Mark Osiborski

GOD'S GOODNESS!

My 18 year old Cat, Elvis, cuddling on HIS pillow, next to mine, in the early morning hours PURRING

I have a PASSION for DOLPHINS - They bring me Joy ~ Watching them jumping and playing in the ocean; surfing the waves AT PONCE INLET.

And, last but not least, Giraffes! Didn't GOD have a SENSE OF HUMOR when He Created them!! Their SMILE! Their UNIQUENESS!! Their Lofty Height!! Gloria Peavy

I love clouds. I don't worship clouds but love to watch them. I love the dark stormy ones, the light fluffy ones, and the ones that seem to be all mixed up. They bring me joy. Marianne Sabatka

I am well blessed. During this pandemic I spend most of my waking hours with Joy at my side. Then as night falls and sleep overtakes me, Joy is still at my side. Her entire name is Lorraine Joy but her Mom called her Joy. No one can match the moments I have filled with JOY. Herb Jones

What brings the most joy in my life is being able to share the gifts God has given me with

others. From the time I can remember, (and that goes back to my early childhood, a very long time ago!), I wanted a horse. That didn't become a reality until I was 35 years old. How wonderful it was to finally fulfill my childhood dream! What brought even more satisfaction and joy, however, was being able to share my horses with others. Literally, hundreds of school children, adult friends, as well as my family, learned to ride and appreciate these magnificent animals through the 30 years I was fortunate to have them. God has blessed me in so many other ways, too. He has provided me with a spacious, beautiful home and the means to decorate it for various seasons and occasions. Sharing my home with others through Christian love and fellowship brings me great joy and happiness! Evelyn Rogers

Joy! In this time of the pandemic, I find joy in simple things, and I think that is how God intended it to be. Spending time with my family, quiet time reading, enjoying birds and nature from my lanai. We have Turkeys, Cranes, Rabbits, Eagles, Deer and more here in Cypress Head. Our flock of Turkeys numbers about 27 on some days. There is no rushing about. Even grocery shopping has taken on a relaxing air. I spent an hour in Publix last Saturday and have stocked up for about another month. And, of course, Joy from watching our Church Service every Sunday morning, and joy and thankfulness for our Pastor and staff who so lovingly prepare the service for our benefit. Barbara Wagner

I find joy in watching videos of my grandsons running and playing. I replay the most recent ones before I close my eyes at bedtime and it seems to make everything new again. Sometimes I go back and compare how they have grown since they were babies, even though they are just

toddlers. Its amazing what great gifts God bestows upon us. Sarah Blake

What brings us joy is seeing the many pictures of our little great- grandchildren growing and laughing and having fun - that their parents send us nearly daily on Messenger. Those are our God's Blessings. Thank you, God. Bonnie and Doug Bennett

What brings me joy - I know I should say Dan, but it's actually my pets (4 cats and a dog) that bring me smiles daily. They are almost always sweet and are almost trouble-free, and they are so appreciative of the simplest things. Plus, they also get into the most interesting positions! Nancy Epps

I just wanted to tell you something funny that happened while I was listening to the service this morning. I was sitting on the back porch while it was raining. I have a family of four crows who visit me every day for peanuts. When you started to sing "Morning Has Broken," at the very instant you sang "blackbird has spoken," they landed on the edge of the roof right above me, cawing and carrying on with their usual racket. Who knows, maybe they thought you were referring to them and were trying to sing?? Also, when you sang "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," the little Carolina wren sang his song almost all the way through! Of course, my assumptions may be coming from the overactive imagination of a fervent bird lover, but who can really say? Birds can really keep up our spirits when things get bad! Janice Lowry

Your worship services Erma Gilliam

