

SouthWest Winds



When I despair, I remember through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end they always fall - Think of it, ALWAYS.

Mahatma Gandhi

Blessings for her Sabbatical

At the end of the service on May 26, Rev. Lorelei Kay was given a Native American Medicine Bag, a small leather pouch, for her to carry with her on her travels and adventures during her three month sabbatical beginning next week. She will return to the church in September. The medicine bag, in a symbolic way, carries our prayers for her safe journey, rest, and rejuvenation during this period. Sharna Sutherin made the presentation and Lorelei also agreed to keep the congregation in her prayers.

CAREGIVING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 12, 2019
7.00 PM

Present: Kay Jordan, Marcia Monterosso, Heather Nasi, Sue Weaver and Betsy Windisch.

We Care Bags: The present organizer, Any Stravers is moving so a new organizer will need to take over. Heather will contact others about taking over.

New Teacher Bags: Organizer Kay Jordan announced the New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31 at JFK Middle School. We will be assembling the bags after worship on Sunday, July 28. They are expecting 150 new teachers. Heather will take a box with a sign for New Teacher Items on it to church by Sunday, June 16. We discussed items needed and prioritized the

ones we felt were most needed to be listed first. Heather and Kathy Mezoff will order and donate the ballpoint pens with our church's information engraved on them from Butlers'. The Care taking team approved this project so that Kay can solicit repayment from the church from individual donations made to the offering for this project.

Card Ministry: Sue Weaver will gone June 28-July 4. Please contact Andy Stravers for any cards that need to be sent during her absence.

Neighborhood groups: There will be two neighborhood gatherings on Sunday, June 23. The Southside/Central group will meet at the home of Sharna Sutherin and Pam Burgess for a barbecue and the Indian Hills group will meet at the home of David and Judy Conejo.

Newcomer greeting: We suggested guidelines for greeters/ushers be written up in the bulletin.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Nasi



Harvest of Empire

Over forty people came to WPC on Sunday afternoon, April 7 to view the movie "Harvest of Empire." Please see page 5 for the editor's notes on this film.

Summer Book Studies

Through the Session and Education Committee, everyone is invited to participate in reading a monthly book which will be discussed at the end of the month.

- June's book is "Educated" by Tara Westover. The discussion will be on Friday, June 28.
- July's book is "Neither Wolf Nor Dog" by Kent Nerburn. The discussion will be on Friday, July 26.
- August's book is "Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver. The discussion will be on Friday, August 23.

The discussion meetings will be at WPC at 6:30 p.m. with light snacks.

Serena Robare

Looking for Original WPC Architectural Drawings

Folks involved with the properties committee have been searching high and low in the church for the plans, especially the diagram of the electrical layout. Such a diagram would be very useful for evaluating what we have and what is needed for any eventual upgrade. If you have the plans, or know where they might be located please speak to Mike Faz, Sharna Sutherin, or Tom Funk.

Also if you have any other documents in your keeping that are property of WPC, their return to the church office would be appreciated.

WPC Congregational Meeting on April 28, 2019

Anna Redsand has resigned as a Ruling Elder and Pamela Burgess will become the chair or the Nominating Committee.

Lucille Begay was presented by the Nominating Committee to replace Anna Redsand's remaining term in the class of 2020.

Revisions of the WPC's by-laws were presented.

All three of the above business items were passed by a vote.

Lucille Begay was ordained and installed as a Ruling Elder

The service of Ordination and Installation for Lucille Begay was held as part of the regular worship service on May 26. At the end of the ritual questions and answers the entire congregation was invited forward for the traditional laying on of hands. This part of the service ended with a declaration of ordination and installation, the welcome, and the charge from scripture.

Easter Morning Snapshots around the Church





John's notes from the 2012 film, "Harvest of Empire"

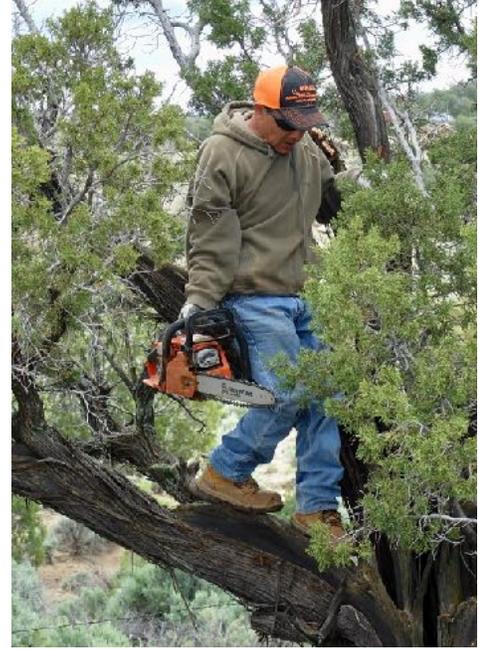
This film was shown at Westminster Presbyterian Church on April 7, 2019. It is a history of why there has been Latin American immigration to the USA.

- Immigration into the USA is a pressing domestic issue today. America is changing and it is predicted that by the end of this century the majority of people in the USA will trace their roots to Latin America.
- The USA must arrive at some sort of peace about this issue or there will be continuing conflict.
- The actions of the USA have resulted in conditions that have forced people to flee their countries. The narrator of the film told how his father, an immigrant, suffered much.
- In 1917 there was indifference in the USA about immigration. Puerto Rico was a territory and the people were given citizenship in order to draft them to fight World War One. Puerto Rico had sugar plantations that were industrialized at an enormous cost to the local people. After World War Two, factories in the USA imported factory workers.
- After 1954 there was a change in attitude toward Central Americans. In Guatemala, 2 per cent of the population controlled 75 per cent of the land. American multinational companies, including the United Fruit Company, reasoned that if local governments were overthrown it would be easier for the US companies to do business, which led to local proxy groups to overthrow their governments, which led to civil war.
- Mexicans are by far the largest group of Latinos in the USA, more than the Irish, French, and German. In the past, much of our west was part of Mexico. The narrator stated that, "We did not cross the border, the border crossed us."
- Slave owners moved from the southern states into Texas to expand slavery. The west was incorporated by congress to gain the most territory with the least people.
- However during the Great Depression, President Hoover deported one million Mexicans, so Mexican labor had been recruited in good times, and was felt to be expendable in bad times. During World War Two, labor flowed back into the USA. Hands were needed for agriculture, but there also were signs saying; "No dogs, Mexicans, or Negroes."
- But over 350,000 Mexicans served proudly in the US Marine Corps during WWII.
- The USA occupied countries, helped rewrite the laws, and supported dictators such as Batista in Cuba, who cooperated with US corporations.
- In 1961 the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba failed and increased Castro's standing on the island. By 1952 there were 215,000 people who had left. These were middle class folks. Jimmy Carter said that we welcome you with open arms. The growth and success of Miami, Florida is largely due to the work of Cuban refugees.
- Other stories were told about USA's involvement in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador including the murder of Bishop Romero and four American nuns by soldiers trained at the School of the Americas.
- People do not emigrate from killers, they flee. They leave only out of desperation. It is difficult for people of the US to understand why anyone would leave their own country and suffer the huge hurdles that being an immigrant throws up for folks trying to stay alive.
- Now there are 2 million Salvadorans in the USA.
- NAFTA hurt small Mexican farmers who could not compete with big companies.
- Ending statements in the film; "How do you take advantage of human potential?" "What does this say about American society?" "Do we have a free society? What are family values?" "There is no such thing as an illegal human being."
- The hallmark of the USA is that this is a nation of immigrants. The American spirit is that you if you work hard on a level playing field, you will prosper. Today's young people cannot be silent. All countries must invest in their children and their future.

Disclaimer: These are from my notes quickly jotted down during the viewing. I hope that the notes give you a flavor of what the film covered, or refreshed your memory if you were able to attend. I accept responsibility if my notes are not an accurate record of the narrative. I think that the message is an important reminder that you reap what you sow. I cannot tell you who made the film. Lorelei was using the internet to view the piece.

J. Mezzoff

May 11 WPC Work Day



A Summary of Session Meetings April 24, and May 22

Dear Congregation. I write this summary as a second hand observer reviewing the Session Minutes and trying to mention those items that I believe would be of interest to the congregation, and trying to leave out much of the routine maintenance items that any institutional board must deal with every month.

- An audit of the financial books by Heather, Chas in coordination with Sharna in April found the church's books to be in order.
- A policy on fund-raisers in the church was established.
- New Covenant Members are: Gerald Robertson, Becky Webber, Katy Thompson, Beth Dalton, and Reuben Barreras. Folks who covenanted for another year are David Conejo, Betsy Windisch, Lucille Begay, and Bruce Williams.
- Sabbatical pulpit supply for June, July, and August was established, (see the newsletter calendar for details).
- The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry made their Triennial Visit on May 11 where they interview the Session and the Pastor asking how the church is functioning, and possibly offering suggestions.
- Monica Gauderon is teaching a Tai Chi class on Tuesday afternoons at WPC. Many in the class are WPC members. Monica has been teaching for many years, but the class had to move from Bethany CR Church because of their extensive building renovation.
- Saturday, May 18 the Mission Networking Committee of Presbytery had people traveling from Albuquerque and Farmington for a discussion on the Doctrine of Discovery. Mark Charles was the speaker, and Mark gave a 40 minute sermon at WPC the next day. You can listen to his message on line by going to the church web-site.
- The summer book group reading plans were announced. See the separate article in this issue with the book titles.
- There was a discussion of a retreat in September, presently planned for Friday September 6th, 7-9 pm, and Saturday September 7th, 8:30 - 6:00. The plans are being developed so stay tuned for the specifics later.
- Checkbook balance as of 5/19/2019 is \$24,702.00 as reported by WPC Treasurer Sharna.
- Lorelei has worked hard to re-establish our nonprofit financial status, which should return some money to us from the playground expenditures, and save money on purchases in the future.

- During Lorelei's absence, Sharna will do pastoral care in June and August, Kris Pikaart will be available in July.
- Lorelei has mailed a letter to the congregation outlining what the neighborhood groups are designed to do, and there is a list of the groups on the bulletin board.
- The present session members are Albert Jordan (class of 2019 1st term), Pamela Burgess (class of 2020 1st term), Lucille Begay (class of 2020, 1st term, filling out the remaining term of Anna Redsand), David Conejo (Class of 2021, 1st term), and Serena Robare (Class of 2021, 1st term).
- The next regular session meeting to be held after the church service with Rev. Catherine Robinson moderating on Sunday June 30, 2019, at the church.

John Mezooff



The part of the Doctrine of Discovery group from Presbytery that went to Zuni.
photo from Lorelei Kay

Have You Noticed?

The church grounds have been cleaned up and look better than they have in years. **David Conejo** arranged for a landscaping outfit to come and clean the property, and I suspect that he also paid for the work. A team of several men were at the church multiple mornings trimming dead branches from the trees, raking, and removing the understory debris from the property. This was much more work done than it would be reasonably conceivable for volunteers to do. The road up our drive way is now like a drive in a park, inviting and has a message that we take care of our property, and this is a pleasant place to be. In the old Presbyterian terminology our front yard is “in decency and in order.” **Thank you David.**

PS: David suggested that I publish before and after pictures, but the idea came after most of the work had been done. Below are ‘after’ pictures.



Mid Year Update from the Treasurer

It has been such a blessing to witness the transformations occurring in our church over the last several years. As the Treasurer I am particularly aware of the financial health of our congregation. We have completed another 6 months with no need to dip into our reserve funds. All of our bills are current and we have been able to pay benefits and salaries of our employees. We have saved funds that pay for all of the pulpit supply needed while Rev. Kay is on Sabbatical. We are building a building reserve fund to offset our insurance deductible of \$2500.00 and are 4/5 of the way there. Each of our Teams has received money this year to support their programing. Education received \$1000.00, \$500.00 for adult and children's programing. All other teams, Caregiving, Mission and Outreach, Worship, Session, Finance and Budget, and Property, have each been budgeted \$500.00 for the fiscal year. These funds have supported the prayer blankets, painting and repair of the building, Lenten study books, and summer bags for children. Future expenditures are likely to include the Church wide Online Needs Assessment, Stewardship drive and the fall retreat.

At the present time about 60% of the \$92,000.00 pledged has been received in the first six months of the fiscal year. Churches that receive 92% or more of their pledged income in a year are considered vital and growing churches. We are well on our way to this. In addition, we are experiencing generous non-pledged giving. Part of why we are where we are is because several pledges have been paid in full. Thank you for your generosity

We have a number of giving units that have not started to make payments on their pledges. I am reminded of the widow's mite in giving. She gave what she could. If you have overextended on you pledge please don't worry. I would encourage you to pull out your copy of "Extravagant Generosity" and remind yourself of that mindset. I would like to suggest that each time you attend worship that you make some kind of offering. If you have only a penny let that be your gift to the ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Together we are growing into a congregation that has the time, energy and financial resources to bring the message of God's love for all to the

community and world we live in. Thank you all for who you are and what you share.

Sharna J. Sutherin

WPC treasurer.

A Brief WPC Calendar Looking Ahead:

Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 AM

Speakers scheduled for Sunday mornings are
June 23: Deborah and Leslie Fabian
June 30, Rev. Catherine Robinson
July 7, Anna Redsand
July 14, Rev. Lorna Kuyk
July 21, Heather Nasi
July 28, Ted Land
August 4, Diane Jochum
August 18, Rev. Kris Pikaart
August 25, Rev. Lorna Kuyk

Neighborhood Groups Meet on Sunday afternoon June 23

- Southside and Central group will meet at the home of Sharna Sutherin and Pam Burgess
- The Indian Hills group will meet at the home of David and Judy Conejo

Monthly Friday Book Group discussion meets at WPC at 6:30 p.m.

- June 28, the book is "Educated" by Tara Westover
- July 26, The book is "Neither Wolf Nor Dog" by Kent Nerburn
- August 23, the book is "Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver.

September 6 & 7 WPC Retreat Planned

Friday, Sept 6; 7-9 p.m.; Lorelei to share her experiences
Saturday, Sept 7 from 8:30 - 6 p.m. to discuss future directions and needs of WPC. Location planning is underway.

Southwest Winds

Southwest Winds is a published
to report on church activities
and to be another medium of communication between members
and friends of WPC

Editor and Publisher, John Mezoff Editor, Kathy Mezoff

Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

is located a mile south
of the intersection of Historic Route 66
and Boardman (State Highway 564) on Boardman Drive
Gallup, New Mexico

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 AM
The Church Telephone is (505) 905-3247
The Church Website is <www.wpcgallup.org>

The Sunday morning sermons are now
being recorded and are available through the WPC

Website.

