

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1520 Rickwood Rd.
Florence, AL 35630
www.westminsterpcusa.net



At the retreat for the Session and members of the search committee, we developed a plan to better promote Westminster. We all know what we do and how we are the church that cares--a small but mighty band of servants. But we want to do a better job of telling our story in hopes that others might join us in our service to God and others.

One of the things we decided to do was purchase articles in the Courier Journal, the free newspaper sent to every mailbox in the area. Today I wrote the first article. I shared in this article our very own Westminster Affirmation of Faith and invited any who shared our beliefs or just wanted to know more, to come visit us in person or on social media.

Another thing that we have already done is put us on Youtube. Alonda took care of that several weeks ago but we need to help share that information, especially because some are leaving Facebook. Tell your friends to go to Youtube and search for under

WPCFlorence. Also share on Facebook or direct your friends to our page, Westminster Presbyterian Church. One more thing we are doing this month is changing our sign to read on both sides: Come join us in being the hands and feet of Jesus. I truly believe that is what we are doing in

this world. We just want more people to join us in sharing the joy of serving our Lord. It is indeed my joy to serve with you. *Susan*

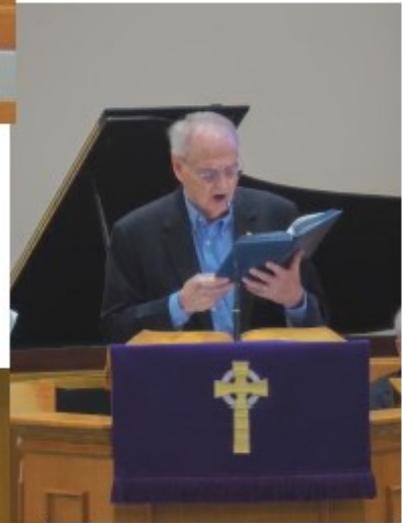


Wil Bruninga	1
Joe Littrell	11
Billie Sylvester	17
Keith Mimbs	23
Mary George	
Williams	27





HOLY WEEK





Mauudy
THURSDAY



"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb

we do not know where they have laid him"



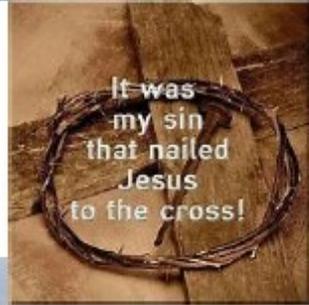
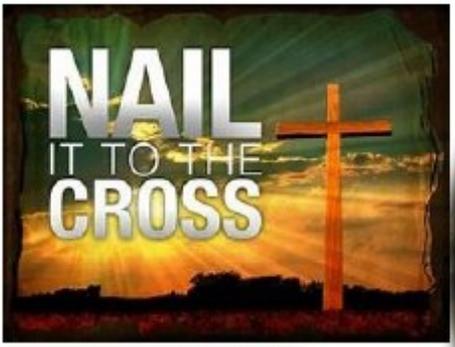
"Whom are you seeking?"

Rev Dr Susan Paker

"Mary!"

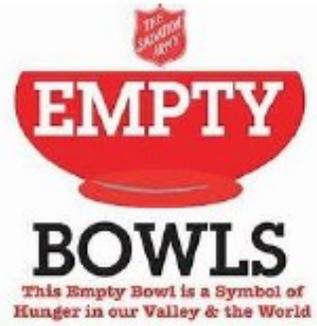
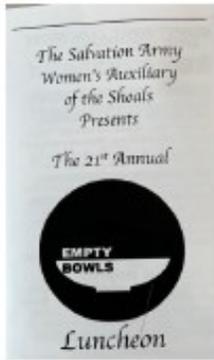
"Rabboni!"





NAP Connections Monday, April 28, 2025

John 17:11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that we may be one, as we are one. Knowing that someone prays for us is a humbling thing. Many years ago when I was starting out in ministry, I went to visit an older widowed woman in the Church I was just beginning to serve. She was ill and had missed worship for a few weeks, so I called and made arrangements to stop by and check on her. She was recovering from her illness and would soon be back among us, so I expected it to be a pleasant visit. I assumed that we would pray together at some point in that visit. She had invited me to come to the back door which opened into the kitchen. That's as far as we got. We sat together at her kitchen table and talked. The table was neat and clean. There was a napkin holder and a salt and pepper shaker on it. Propped up against that napkin holder was the article that had appeared in the local paper when I became her pastor a few months earlier. I hadn't expected to see that. When I asked her about it, she said she kept it there to remind her to pray for me every morning when she had her coffee. She went to say that she knew being a pastor was not easy, so she prayed every day that God would give me the things I needed to do my job. I had come there expecting to pray for her (and I did before I left), but I discovered that she already prayed for me every morning. That was an incredibly humbling and encouraging thing to learn. I hope that you can identify times in your life when the prayers of others brought you strength, hope, assurance, and others of God's gifts. We have a dear friend who is currently in the midst of what has been an unexpectedly rough recovery from surgery. She lives far away from us and from many other friends. Every time we hear from her, she talks about how the prayers of her friends give her hope that her recovery will soon take a positive turn. We continue to pray that it will. Today's text from John's Gospel comes from what many call the High Priestly Prayer Jesus prayed before he faced death. There is more to that prayer than this one verse, and I commend the entire prayer in John's seventeenth chapter to you. But here, near the end of that prayer, Jesus prays for his disciples. Knowing that he is about to leave them, he prays that they will find unity and courage to continue to work they have begun together. Today, of course, we find ourselves just over a week from Easter. Just as the first disciples wondered what would come next for them, we probably wonder how the Risen Christ will guide us toward a future we cannot fully comprehend. Knowing that Jesus prayed for his disciples, and knowing that we are those disciples for today offers us assurance that we do not face that future alone. It is significant that when Jesus prays for us as disciples, his prayer is for our unity. We have not yet fully realized his desire for us. We generally identify ourselves by what divides us instead of what unites us. Denominational loyalty, particular favored ministries, congregational family identity, even Sunday School classes—all of these can be ways for us to set ourselves apart from others. As important as these and other groups can be in forming us, they can also be ways for us to understand and to strive for the unity with all who follow Jesus that he prayed for us to know. I can't imagine being anything other than a Presbyterian. Once I found this system of faith and practice, I found a home. Today's text reminds me that a part of that identity is concern and respect for people whose faith may be expressed in ways different than ours, but people who follow Jesus just as surely as we do. "So that they may be one," was Jesus' prayer. I suspect he continues to pray toward that end. Grace and Peace, Rev Bob Phelps, Presbyterian

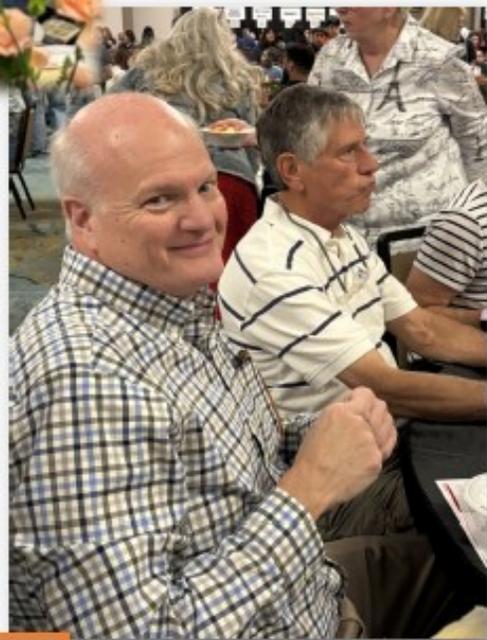


This fundraiser helps reduce hunger in Lauderdale, Colbert & Frank-

Several WPC members were in attendance to support this great cause, including Alonda Crosslin & Brad Moody



Bailey White represented TNT Fireworks, a major supporter, in a skit during the luncheon!



Handmade bowls & crosses are given to each guest to keep as a re-





Winn



**MQ & Sally Parker's
granddaughters,
Emalyn, Mia & Katlyn**



**Happy 14th birth-
day to Mia !**





Thank you John & Joy Ford for hosting a small Easter Brunch! The food & decorations were great!



On April 19 the Westminster cooks served 150 meals at the Soup Kitchen. Along with the regular meal, the diners received Easter cupcakes and chocolate bunnies as a special dessert



Marsha Bullock, her sister Paula and her 3 precious granddaughters prepared a Kid's Corner where the children enjoyed crafting. Also helping with the meal were Brad Moody, Susan Johnson, Sally Parker, Susan Parker and Paula Offutt.



Marsha Bullock's sister Paula Stone & her grandchildren Brookelyn, Lydia & Sophia helped prepare the tables!