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# THE WESTMINSTER LOG

## Westminster In Worship — Spring Worship Series

*Building Blocks: Stories of the early church teach us the fundamentals of faith*

The time in the Church calendar between Easter and Pentecost Sunday is known as the “Great Fifty Days.” During this time, the lectionary (which often guides our scripture focus each week) suggests passages that teach valuable fundamentals for a life of faith. What commitments are foundational to our Christian identity? We believe in what we cannot see, experience the resurrected Christ, learn to share in community, ask questions as we grow in faith, draw connections for those with other beliefs, draw strength from shared prayer, and value all who are a part of the body of Christ. Join us each week as we continue to build our faith story together, one block at a time.



### April 12: Becoming a Believer (John 20:19-31)

While many are able to believe without proof, some, like Thomas, need some help. Jesus doesn't scold him for his doubts, but meets him where he is and offers him what he needs to believe and follow.

### April 19: Recognizing Jesus (Luke 24:13-25)

Even those who walked with Jesus while he was alive needed help recognizing him. Jesus makes himself known to us in different ways, but we must be open to seeing and experiencing his presence.

### April 26: Living in Community (Acts 2:42-47)

This passage sounds almost like a dream, an idealistic version of what the church could be like. It's a vision that the church has strived for since the beginning and one we still look to today.

### May 3: Asking Questions (John 14:1-14)

We don't know all the answers, in life, or in faith. The importance is that we keep asking, keep seeking, and keep trying to grow and to follow as best we can.

### Westminster Presbyterian Church

Everyone welcome!

You are invited to join us for our special Holy Week Services!



### Palm Sunday

10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 29



### Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 2



### Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Friday, April 3



### Holy Saturday Vigil

4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 4



### Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5

Two services: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Breakfast at 9:15 a.m.

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WWW.WPCBC.ORG

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Church - Bay City



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Monday through Thursday  
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Financial Secretary  
Martha Tapley (ext. 206)

# April

## Sundays

**8:45 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal**  
for our Adults; the Bells play during Worship once a month

**9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study**  
Our Adult Bible Study sessions will follow our Spring Worship series, "Building Blocks: Fundamentals of Our Faith." See Page 6.

**9:30 a.m. Fellowship**  
Join us in Fellowship Hall for Coffee and Donuts and Conversation

**10:30 a.m. Worship**  
This Spring season, our theme will be "Building Blocks: Fundamentals of Our Faith" (On the Cover)

**11:30 a.m. Fellowship**  
Join us in the Chapel for Coffee and Cookies and Conversation

**5:00 p.m. Youth Bells**  
For Youth 5th-12th grade

**5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner**

**6:00 p.m. Youth Group**  
For Youth 5th-12th grade  
See Page 2 for the Youth Schedule or to sign up to help provide Youth Dinners in April.

### Office Hours

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

website: [wpcbc.org](http://wpcbc.org)

Join us on Facebook

Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City

Sunday	Monday
<p><b>Happy Birthday</b></p> <p>Joyce Whitney Richard Frontjes Jill Jean</p> <p>Walter Whitney Carol Campbell Marilyn Bechtel</p>	
<p><b>5</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Mission Meeting 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting 6 p.m. Doxa Dinner</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>BRING ITEMS FOR RUMMAGE SALE AND BEGIN SETTING UP</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting</p> <p>RUMMAGE SALE SETUP</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>11:45 a.m. Gathering and Games 5:30 p.m. Being Presbyterian</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri/Sat
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Wondering Wednesday until 2 p.m. 4 p.m. Food Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until noon 5 p.m. Food of Faith 7 p.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>3</b> <i>Good Friday</i></p> <p>7 p.m. Worship Service</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Knitting 11 a.m. Do-All, Inc. Yoga 1:30 p.m. Book Group 5 p.m. Personnel Meeting 6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>4 p.m. Food Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until noon 1:30 p.m. Caring Connections 5 p.m. Food of Faith 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Matthew 25 Café 10 a.m. Knitting 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 1 p.m. Lions Club 1:30 p.m. Book Group 6 p.m. Boy Scouts</p> <p>RUMMAGE SALE SETUP</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>1 p.m. Out-to-Lunch Bunch 4 p.m. Food Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6 p.m. RUMMAGE SALE (Members only) until 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9 a.m. RUMMAGE SALE until 4 p.m. 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until noon 10:30 a.m. Outreach and Hospitality 1 p.m. Lydia Circle 5 p.m. Food of Faith 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9 a.m. RUMMAGE SALE (open to public) until noon – RUMMAGE SALE CLEAN-UP</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Knitting 11 a.m. Do-All, Inc. Yoga 1:30 p.m. Book Group 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>4 p.m. Food Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal LOG DEADLINE</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until noon 5 p.m. Food of Faith 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p><b>18</b> 8 a.m. Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Knitting 10 a.m. Staff Meeting 10 a.m. Log Folding 12 p.m. Lunch and Laugh (Bunco)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>4 p.m. Food Pantry open until 6 p.m. 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. TOPS 10 a.m. Food Pantry open until noon 10:30 a.m. Outreach and Hospitality 4 p.m. Deborah Circle 5 p.m. Food of Faith 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study</p>		

\*Birthdays listed are for our 75+ Members

As you can see, our income continues to exceed our expenses. Which makes this accountant's heart very happy!

My topic for this month is Special Offerings. Prior to 2026, we collected four Special Offerings each year: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, and Christmas Joy. One Great Hour of Sharing and Christmas Joy will continue as before, but beginning in 2026, the Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness Offerings will be replaced by the World Communion Offering.

One Great Hour of Sharing is traditionally collected on Easter Sunday. The Offering from our church is sent to the Lake Huron Presbytery and from there to the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is used to support causes relating to disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, immigration, migration, and refugees.

In the past, a portion of the Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness Offerings remained at Westminster, while the rest went to the Presbyterian Church (USA). The new World Communion Offering will be collected on World Communion Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and will be sent in full to PC(USA). This Offering supports racial justice,

**GENERAL FUND**

	Month to Date thru March 15,	
	2026	Year to Date
Pledges & Other Giving	\$ 71,527	\$ 177,263
One-time Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Cash Received	\$ 345	\$ 3,513
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 71,872</b>	<b>\$ 180,776</b>
Expenses	\$ 21,946	\$ 84,364
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 49,926</b>	<b>\$ 96,412</b>

Budgeted expense total for 2026 is \$467,000.

gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith relations. Individual churches, synods, and presbyteries will be able to apply for grants from this Offering to support their own work in these areas.

For those of you who received giving envelopes, there is no envelope for the World Communion Offering. Feel free to use another envelope and just note that it is for this Offering.

The Christmas Joy Offering is collected on Christmas Eve. It is sent to PC(USA) and supports children at-risk, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian schools and colleges equipping communities of color, and servants of the church in need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

As always, if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do for you, please contact me via email at [treasurer@wpcbc.org](mailto:treasurer@wpcbc.org), or on my cell at 616-485-8272.

*Pat Foster*  
Financial Administrator

**Hearts and Hands Knitting Group invites YOU to join!**

Happy mid-winter to all our Westminster ladies, and we're hoping that you're all staying warm with all this cold weather that we've been having.

For those of you who crochet and knit, this is the perfect time to curl up in your favorite chair and finish that project you had started earlier. And this is why I'm sending this message to you all at this time ... just wondering if some of you who prefer to work at home would be interested in making some hats, scarves and mittens for the little ones of all ages in our community that are without. When I have delivered these items to daycares and schools, you have no idea how thrilled the staff are to receive them, the need is so great!

We've had several "yarn fairies" who have donated yarn to us, and you are more than welcome to use the yarn that is in our closet located in the chapel area.

In conclusion, our knitting group would be so grateful for your help in keeping these little ones in our community warm during the winter. You're welcome to join us on Tuesday morning at 10 a.m., but if you can't we're most happy to provide yarn to you, so that you can help out from home!

Thanking you in advance, and may the Lord bless you really good!

With love from Sharon Hignite and the Westminster Hearts and Hands Knitting Group

*With Sympathy*

Prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of Leota Clark. Leota passed away March 2, 2026.



**Gathering and Games**

Our Sundays have been so full over the last few months that we have been **GATHERING** in different ways. But on **April 19th**, we'll gather again for fellowship and **GAMES!**

We've always got some games to choose from, but if you've got one to share, bring it along! Whether you want to play a game with the crowd, or are just looking for an excuse to spend time with some friends and eat, we hope you'll **stay after worship on April 19**. Bring a friend, bring a snack, or just bring yourself!

*Thank you*

I just wanted to say thank you for your cards, prayers and best wishes while I was in the hospital. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Joy Thompson*

**Mother's Day Baby Shower**

The annual Mother's Day Baby Shower will take place on **May 10**. Please help us to make it a success by **bringing in your donations on Sundays April 19, April 26, May 3 and May 10**. The items will be distributed between Salvation Army, Rescue Ministries and the Bay Area Women's Center.

Suggested items include: diapers, pacifiers, bibs, blankets, onesies, bath items and towels, socks and clothing, bottles and dishes and toys.

**Town Hall Recap: Celebrating our Progress and Planning for the Future**

The Session held its first Town Hall of 2026 on March 22. We reflected together on our journey over the last year, remarking how far we've come since our first informational meeting last May. We celebrated the strides we've made together and discussed how we can continue to grow and serve.

In 2025, thanks to your generosity, we exceeded our income expectations and practiced careful stewardship, which allows us to continue the vital ministry we are called to as we dream together about where God is calling us next. 2026 is off to a strong start, but your continued gifts and commitment to God's work here at Westminster are needed and appreciated.

Our operating budget for 2026 is \$467,000. To date, we have received pledges totaling \$340,000 from around half of our member households. While we anticipate additional donations above pledged dollars, it is difficult to understand our financial picture when we do not know what to expect. To help us as we plan for the rest of the year, if you have not pledged but have an estimate of what you may give in 2026, please turn in a pledge card. Your participation helps us chart a clear path forward. Also remember that your pledge can be amended if needed at any time.

Beyond financial contributions, we remain committed to offering many different ways you can engage with our community—through committees, fellowship events, education opportunities, and volunteer opportunities. Your involvement enriches our journey. Every piece is welcome and needed!

Thank you for being part of our Westminster family. Let's continue to build a future filled with hope and shared purpose. Together, we'll keep listening, contributing, and creating a vibrant community.

## Ukulele group interest

Hey, Westminster!!!  
Have you ever wanted to play an instrument? Dawn and Seth are thinking about starting a **beginner's ukulele group**. Let one of us know if you are interested in joining!



Dawn 989-327-0412 or  
Seth (810) 288-7710

## Youth Schedule

**April 5th:** No Youth (Happy Easter)

**April 12th:** Normal Schedule

**April 19th:** Movie Night

**April 26th:** Normal Schedule

Do you like to cook or bake meals? If yes, then we would love for you to sign up to help with Youth Dinners for Sunday night youth group meetings. If not, there is still a way you can help with dinner. You can choose to provide dinner by providing pizza, chicken tenders, Mac & Cheese or something along those lines. We usually have dinner from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. You will get a count a couple of days in advance. Please scan the QR code, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAFAC22A4F9C61-62996110-april> or see Leah Sneller to sign up.



## Spring Rummage and Bake Sale

Westminster's Presbyterian Women committee is planning a **Spring Rummage Sale and Bake Sale for Wednesday, April 15 through Friday, April 17**.

We will begin collecting rummage sale items and setting up on Sunday, April 12. There will be opportunities to help set up on April 13 and 14, to bake items for the bake sale and to help run the sale and bake sale.

Volunteers also will be needed to help clean up on Friday, April 17.

## Save the Dates for May

**May 17-** Rev. Isaac Chung will be with us for worship! Following worship will be our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

**May 31-** End-of-School Block Party

## The Out-to-Lunch Bunch

After a nice gathering in March, the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** has selected it's next delicious destination! Next month we will meet at **1 p.m. Wednesday, April 15 at Meats & Moore**, 1411 S. Wenonah St. (Note: they have a large eating area in the back of the deli).

If you would like to join us, please contact Dave Crook at [crookds@earthlink.net](mailto:crookds@earthlink.net) or 847-624-5798 to RSVP by Monday, April 13, so we can give them an accurate head count for our group.

## Pantry receives thanks from guests

**February Statistics:** We served 594 people from 218 households with 6,545 pounds of food. We had over 60 families each of the first two weeks before we settled down to a more average number of visits. We had families from a variety of cities this month, too. And we saw an uptick in families that hadn't been here since October or longer. We're not sure what that means, but we're glad they are finding their way back to us if they need food.

**The April "Item of the Month"** is packages of dry seasoning mixes like taco or ranch seasoning. This will be something new in the pantry that our guests will love. All donations may be left on the cart outside the pantry door. Thank you!

**Note from a guest:** In case you wonder what kind of impact we are having in our community... *Thank you for providing for the community. Your kindness doesn't go*



*unappreciated. I visited today. My son will be excited to try a new ice cream bar tonight, and he loves cucumbers, but I never buy the tiny ones because they are expensive. He'll like having them as part of his lunch tomorrow. Thank you for helping to ease the weight of single motherhood.*

**Community Support:** We received three "birthday trays" with items to make a cake, balloons, a birthday banner, bubbles, plates, napkins,

sprinkles and a birthday card. Some women in the community make these for area pantries and asked if we were interested. Of course, we said yes! This is just one more wonderful way the community is supporting our pantry!

**Wishing for spring? Planning your garden?** Consider planting a little extra to donate to the pantry! Fresh produce is a wonderful addition to our summer pantry options. All donations are welcomed.

## Being Presbyterian: Understanding the Sacraments

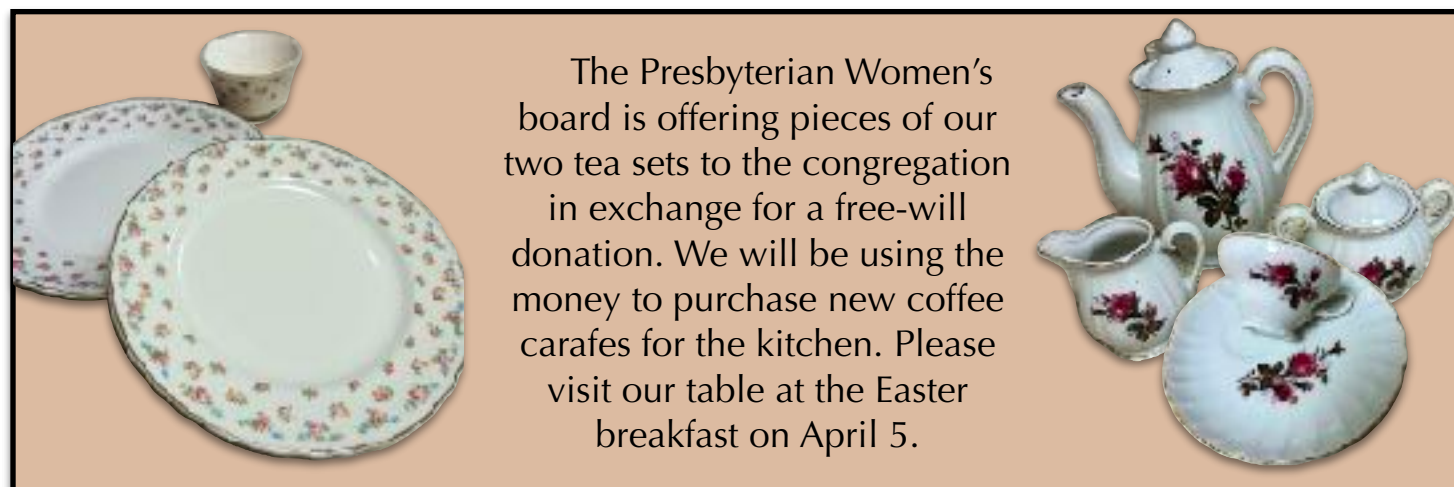
Have you ever wondered about the significance of the Sacraments in our Reformed tradition? Join us for the next session of our Being Presbyterian class, where we'll explore Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We'll wonder together about:

- What does Baptism mean, and how does it shape our identity as disciples?
- How does the Lord's Supper function in our worship and community life?
- What commitments guide our understanding and practice of these Sacraments?

Together, we'll reflect on how these sacred acts embody God's grace and nurture our faith community. Whether you're new to Presbyterian life, returning after some time away, or simply curious about the deeper meanings of these practices, this class is for you.

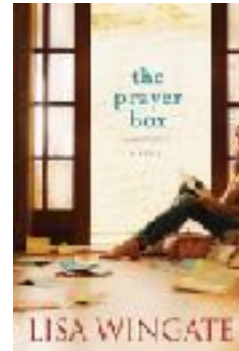
Come learn, ask questions, share experiences, and deepen your appreciation for how the Sacraments enrich our worship and fellowship. All are welcome—bring your curiosity and a friend! We will meet **Sunday, April 19** for dinner at 5:30 p.m.



The Presbyterian Women's board is offering pieces of our two tea sets to the congregation in exchange for a free-will donation. We will be using the money to purchase new coffee carafes for the kitchen. Please visit our table at the Easter breakfast on April 5.

### April Selection: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate

Our Book Group is excited to begin a new reading journey with *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate, a tender and inspiring story about second chances, unexpected grace, and the quiet strength found in a life of faith. Through the discovery of decades' worth of handwritten prayer letters, the main character, Tandi Jo Reese, begins to uncover not only the story of the woman who wrote them but also a path toward healing in her own life.



shape a life far more than we realize. This beautifully mirrors the book's central theme: that hope often comes in gentle, steady ways.

**Join us on Tuesday, April 7th at 1:30 PM.** Whether you're a returning participant or joining for the first time, we welcome you to come enjoy warm fellowship, meaningful discussion, and the uplifting message this story offers.

Bring your thoughts, reflections, and the moments that spoke to you. We look forward to sharing this journey together! Any questions, please call Rev. Linda. A few copies are still available in the church office.

As one reflection from the book suggests: Sometimes the smallest acts of faith — written, whispered, or tucked away — have the power to

### Adult Bible Study

**"Westminster in Worship – Building Blocks: Stories of the Early Church"** highlights foundational commitments of Christian faith during the Great Fifty Days between Easter and Pentecost. Both in worship and Bible study we will explore themes such as believing without seeing, recognizing Christ's presence, living in community, and asking faithful questions, using the weekly lectionary passages to guide our study and reflection.

Join us for **Sunday morning Bible study at 9:00** or **Thursday evening Zoom study at 7 p.m.** We will follow these same scripture passages and themes each week, allowing participants in either group to journey together through this shared exploration of early church experiences and core practices of faith.



Ordination and Installation — February 22



Mid-Lenten Potluck — March 11



Dramatic Lenten Readings



## Seasons of Transition

As we enter the season of spring, change is all around us. Bare trees hint at green once more. Early buds push up through the soil. The air carries brief moments of warmth, gently reminding us of what lies ahead. These shifts often bring feelings of hope, renewal, and possibility.

Our behavior shifts with the season as well. Warmer days invite us outdoors for a walk, a bike ride, or a simple moment in the sun. We open our windows and let fresh air sweep away the dust of winter. We turn our faces toward the light and quietly remind ourselves: I'm still here.

And yet, early spring still carries traces of winter. Unexpected cold days send us reaching for the coat we thought we had put away for good. In much the same way, this season can also awaken reminders of our grief.

Holidays, birthdays, and traditions arrive without the presence of the person we miss. A garden once lovingly tended now sits untouched. A holiday meal feels incomplete without a familiar dish or shared laughter. Even as life moves forward, absence makes itself known.

These contrasts reflect the nature of grief itself — unpredictable moments of sadness alongside stretches of calm. Grief travels with us, changing shape but never leaving.

We have learned that grief is a journey. It remains a part of us because memories remain a part of us. Moving forward does not mean leaving grief behind. Grief exists because love exists. Carrying it often means finding new ways to express that love. Grief is not something to rush, fix or silence — it is something to acknowledge, witness, and carry with care.



### Gardening as an expression of our Grief

According to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, the language of flowers has been recognized for centuries across Europe and Asia. Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and Chinese cultures all used flowers as symbols to convey meaning. William Shakespeare frequently wove floral symbolism into his writing, and during the Victorian era, flowers became a way to communicate emotions that could not be spoken aloud. They were used to answer questions, express joy, and share in profound sorrow. Even today, flowers continue to carry deep significance and meaning.

As we consider and reflect on our individual grief journeys, the slow, quiet acts of growing flowers and plants can offer a sense of comfort and connection. Creating a garden, flowerpot, or raised flower bed can be a meaningful way to express grief while also honoring the memory of the one you have lost. Whether it is a small corner of your home near a sunny window or a patch of earth in your backyard,

*Continued on next page*

## Caring Connections

*Grief is not a mountain to be climbed,  
with the strong reaching the summit long  
before the weak.*

*Grief is not an athletic event with stop  
watches timing our progress.*

*Grief is a walk through pain and loss;  
there is no competition or time trial.*

— Author Unknown

Venturing through grief can be very draining. You are now living in a new world after the loss of a loved one. A world where maybe your value systems have been altered. Things that mattered the most are of little or no importance to you. Your priorities have changed. Sometimes you are not really sure what is important anymore.

Maybe your tasks have changed. Suddenly the man who stayed out of the kitchen must cook and clean or the woman left behind now has worry about oil changes and tire pressure and bank accounts, etc. Things she never had to be responsible for in the past. Maybe a son or daughter now has to care for a remaining parent

after a death. These things and more can totally upset our world and we just don't know how to approach them.

Your identity has changed. A whole new list of names have come into your vocabulary. Names like widow, widower, survivor, bereaved victim's family member, orphan. You lose the identity of yourself and are now an unwilling member of a defined "group." How do these things make you feel?

If you are affected by these things in any way, please plan to attend our next Caring Connections meeting where we talk about our own situations and dealing with them. New topics arise in every new discussion.

**Our next meeting is April 9 (note change of week).** Normally we meet the first Thursday of the month, but Maundy Thursday is the first Thursday in April.

**We meet from 1:30 until 3:00 p.m.** at the church. We love to see new faces!

Happy Easter and God's blessings,

*Mary*

this space can become an invitation to slow down, reflect and heal.

When choosing seeds or flowers to plant, it may be helpful to select varieties that hold personal meaning or reflect where you are in your grief journey at this moment.

*Provided by St. Luke's Hospice Bereavement Program, Bethlehem, PA*

### The following are the Victorian era meaning of some flowers, plants and herbs:

**Baby's breath** - everlasting love

**Basil** - good wishes

**Belladonna** - silence

**Black-eyed Susan** - justice

**Callalily** - beauty

**Camellia (pink)** - longing

**Pink Carnation** - I'll never forget you

**Purple Hyacinth** - sorrow

**Rosemary** - remembrance

**Carnation** - memory

**White roses** - reverence

**Forget-me-nots** - remembrance

**White Lilies** - symbolize the restored innocence of the soul

**Chrysanthemums** - represent death, lamentation and honor in many cultures.