

WestEndNotes

I CAN DO ALL THINGS

As I sit to write my newsletter for this month, I am at a standstill. I really have no idea what to say, what to talk about or how to possibly inspire you this month. At this time of year I am usually writing about all the choirs and events starting back after the summer break, encouraging more to join the choir and sharing all the exciting musical events coming up in the fall months. At this time of year I usually have the joy and excitement of picking new music for our choirs and choosing both the cantata and Christmas pageant. At this time of year I usually am so glad to have the weekly fellowship and music-making with my choirs. This year I have none of that. This year I am at a standstill.

Since March 15th, the entire staff has been trying to find creative, cohesive and inspiring ways to continue to share God's word, provide meaningful worship and to keep our congregation fed and connected. It has not been easy. In our staff meetings we joke about how much easier it was to do what was "normal." The "new normal" is not so easy. It requires thinking so far out of the box, almost into absurdity at times, because of our new laws of interaction. It requires us to learn and utilize technology in our jobs that we normally would not use. It requires more time, energy, discipline and discernment than we would normally encounter. For me, these new laws of interaction make my job as I have known it these past ten years almost impossible. Almost...

If you know me, you know I like a challenge. When I was a kid playing "Truth or Dare," I always chose "dare" and ended up in some interesting trouble. So now I feel

dared to keep our music program vibrant, our non-singing singing fervent and our worship inspiring but the truth is I am a little shaken, a little doubtful, a little scared. I am constantly questioning myself - Can I do this? - if truth be told.

God's answer to me is clear: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) In reading all of Paul's words in the 4th chapter, I am indeed strengthened and assured. The answer is always right there. As the Philippians prayed for Paul, pray for your staff. As Paul prayed for the Philippians, we pray for you. Our uncertainty in all things seen and unseen is just a matter of faith. At our first Second Sunday event, I sang "His Eye is on the Sparrow". I chose this because I wanted those that heard those words to feel comforted and their faith to be restored. I really should listen to myself more often.

"Let not your heart be troubled."

*His tender words I hear and resting on His goodness,
I lose all my doubts and fears.
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see,
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free!
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.*

As a staff and a congregation, we are in this together. As we all try to live by the new laws of interaction and as we try to discern our new directions both as a congregation and individually, let's make it a matter of faith! Remember God's word, seek God's voice and know that God's got this. He always has!

~ Jennifer Thomas

spiritual GEOGRAPHY

I was very grateful to have a change of scenery earlier this month as I traveled cross country with my sister. She and I took a similar trip about 28 years ago when I was a teenager and she and her husband were moving back to South Carolina from Oregon. I wish everyone could make a trip like that. Our country, for all its current struggles, is so vast and beautiful. We saw snow near Crater Lake, we descended into the hot desert, we drove through miles of corn. You come away with a sense of perspective after a trip like that, a sense of the great diversity of our nation and God's creation, and new insights into self.

This trip was a kind of pilgrimage. I stopped along the way and reflected on how the geography of the places where I visited were reflected in my life. I took lots of pictures. I'm excited to be sharing these pictures and reflections with you in a new series beginning September 6th called "Spiritual Geography."

I hope you will join me for the journey!

Peace,



Rev. Maggie Beamguard



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY JENNIFER!

Jennifer Thomas is our Director of Music. She began her work at West End Presbyterian Church on September 1, 2010. Join me in congratulating Jennifer on 10 great years of leading us in making a joyful noise!

WEPC YOUTH GROUP



We are gearing up for a fun fall of friends and fellowship with our WEPC Youth Group! Youth and Parents check out these fun events on our calendar! Make sure you fill out our Youth Group Registration, Medical Release & Covenant Form to participate in all our activities this year. The form is available on our church website at westendpres.church.

youth group

SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 6TH
HAPPY LABOR DAY!
NO YOUTH

SEPTEMBER 13TH
SECOND SUNDAY
ALL CHURCH EVENT

SEPTEMBER 20
5-6PM
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MEET

SEPTEMBER 27
5-6PM
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MEET



W.O.W & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we are excited to bring a new, virtual WOW program for K-5th Graders. Since children's Sunday School remains on hiatus, we hope all the children will take advantage of this weekly offering for spiritual formation. Welcoming children and passing on the stories of faith to them is one of our community's core values. It will not be the same as our in-person experience, but we do hope it helps our children feel connected to each other and the church.

The program will be offered live from 3:30-4:15pm on Wednesdays via ZOOM. Children will need to have a computer/tablet/phone to access our afterschool program, as well as some headphones. The schedule, at least initially, will be:

- 3:30 WELCOME AND CHECK-IN
- 3:40 BIBLE STORY
- 3:50 CRAFT ACTIVITY
- 4:00 GAME/DANCE PARTY
- 4:10 CLOSING AND PRAYER

Since this is a new experience for all of us, we may need to make adjustments to the schedule. We are also hoping to produce a virtual (pre-recorded) Christmas Pageant (more details to come!).

Registration forms for WOW will be available beginning September 1st on the church website and in the church office. You MUST register with the church to get access to the ZOOM link. The first virtual WOW will be held on September 16.

TUESDAY TUTORING PROGRAM



Tuesday Tutoring has a wonderful community of caring tutors, mentors, and volunteers. Let's keep them and our tutoring families in our thoughts and prayers that in the new year a miracle will allow us to return to tutoring!

The "Staples for Students" distribution was a huge success. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support through donations of food and funds for 16 families over 17 weeks. We know that these families will need our help from time to time and thanks to your donations, there are funds available.

Each student in the tutoring program will have a prayer flag waving with their name on it under the church oaks. Grace, health, love, and peace to our Hispanic community, our volunteers, and our church family.



SECOND SUNDAY
IN SEPTEMBER

Bring a tailgate picnic to eat at your car at 6pm in the Crawford Center Parking Lot and participate in **GAME NIGHT!** The evening will conclude with a service of prayer.



**THE BACKPACK BLESSING FEST
WAS LOTS OF FUN!**



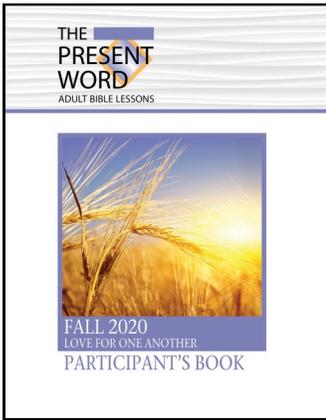
To mark the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year in a meaningful and faithful way, we invited all students and teachers to join our Backpack Blessing Fest on August 9, in the parking lot of the Crawford Center.

A map was used for participants to find the five different interactive, but physically distanced stations: chalkboard prayers, a community art project, a photobooth, a special hopscotch game, and it ended with a blessing of your backpack and or

device on the church steps.

Pencil cases containing a pencil, eraser, hand sanitizer, sticker, backpack key ring, bookmark and a mask was given to each student. Thank you Sue Shepard for making the mask to share with the children! If you are a Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle or you have a child in your life, we invite you to stop by the church office to pick up a pencil case for them (while supplies last).





AGAPE Sunday School Class

led by
Robin Baker

The Present Word is an adult Bible study curriculum. The Participant's Book has helpful information about each week's lesson. The scripture passages are included along with scripture notes, helpful insights into the text, and even daily Bible readings for personal study.

The Fall Quarter (September–November 2020) reminds us that we are commanded by God to love one another as God loves us. The first unit "Struggles with Love," looking at familial love, jealousy, and destruction. Love and reconciliation in the Joseph story prevail in spite of harsh and negative circumstances. Unit II centers on love for the stranger, the poor, and enemies. Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan and First Corinthians' sermon on love illustrate love for one's neighbor and depicts the height of human love coming from divine love. The third unit explores how believers love by serving, looks at the abiding love of God through the Holy Spirit, reveals the expression of God's love in the formation of the early Christian community, and tells of the love of neighbor as fulfillment of the law of God.

Books are available for pick up on the information table in the church office. Please stop by and pick your book up as the Fall quarter is a self led study. If you have questions, please contact Robin Baker.

OVER YONDER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

led by
Lynne Graham

The Over Yonder Sunday School Class will kick off the fall semester with a study written by the New York Times bestselling author Mark Batterson. The book, *Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God*, may be ordered online but is not required for your participation. Our group has met all summer through Zoom at ten each Sunday morning. In addition, lessons and Bible readings are sent as attachments to a weekly email to those who cannot Zoom on a certain Sunday.

This group of friendly church congregants has been together for many years but always welcomes newcomers. Formerly, our name was the Down Under class as we met in the church basement. We have also met in the attic! Our last home was shared with the youth in the Hogan House. Our topics have always been chosen by the group and most recently include Care Creation of the Environment, Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, religions fathered by Abraham, Fear of the Other, and , of course, seasonal advent and Easter curricula. We share a favorite hymn through YouTube and occasionally someone sings or plays the accordion!

If you would like to try us out, please email Lynne Graham at lynnegraham@nc.rr.com. This will be a flexible year as we continue to support the WEPC programs and its ministries.





STAY THE COURSE

THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM kicked-off their season in August by mailing out the mid-year report. The report is a collective look at all we have accomplished together so far this year. Despite COVID-19, church committees and church staff made adjustments and continued with their missions and responsibilities. If your family has not received a mid-year report, please visit www.westendpres.church or call the church office.

The Stewardship team is a dedicated group consisting of Amanda Brown, Jayne Lee, Ron Dunning, and Bill Eisel, Chair. COVID-19 has definitely altered planning for the 2021 year. Before that process begins, we pray that everyone can honor their pledges for this year.

With Pastor Todd's departure, reduced utilities and other costs reduced by COVID-19, we are hoping this budget year will produce a budgetary surplus which can be carried forward to 2021. We'll rely on the Finance Committee to make that determination

We realize that COVID-19 has affected everyone financially and it would be unfair of us to establish expectations and provide any guidance for next year's pledge, We are thankful for our Lord and Savior's guidance which simply reminds us to give from our hearts.

Finally as a theme for next year we'll simply

"STAY THE COURSE."

Be safe and stay healthy!

YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Mary Price has served WEPC well for many years as a member and volunteer of many committees. She was a member of the Stewardship Team last year and shared this article in last years September WestEndNotes. It deserves sharing with you again. Thank you Mary!

As a member of the Stewardship team, my assignment was to write the stewardship article for the *WestEndNotes* for September. That should be easy; just go to the internet. There it was: *Six Principles of Christian Stewardship*. That was fine until I looked at **Principle Number One**: "God doesn't need your money; He already owns everything." Principle One was not working out too well for a Stewardship Campaign. Then I moved to **Principle Two**: "We are God's stewards, managing his resources on behalf of the owner." Now we were getting there. **Principle Three** said: "Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will take care of itself." So now I'm worried again. Don't we have to worry about tomorrow? After all, the church could lose its air conditioning system and how would we pay to replace it? Maybe Principle four will help me out. **Principle four** said "God wants your offerings to him to reflect your faith in Him. Your offerings build your faith in Him." Now we are getting somewhere. Our offerings express our faith as we manage God's resources. **Principle Five** tells us that "committing in advance to give a certain percentage of your income back to God demonstrates faith in his provision." **Principle Six** sums it up. "Material things will eventually vanish, but they can be invested to reap eternal dividends."

~ Mary Price





riseagainsthunger.org

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030.

The WEPC Mission Team led by Mac Clark and John Wilson have been in contact with Darron from Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger is proposing a team meal packing method where only a single team may work at a table and work over an extended period to fill packs and weigh and prep without a full event that we are accustomed to.

We have decided to wait for in person worship services to begin again for West End Presbyterian Church before we begin planning whatever type of event Rise Against Hunger may offer. Please use the link below for more information on RAH events during COVID-19.
<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/eventsafety/?ga=2.96634911.1683818968.1594835389.1732079741.1594835389>

JUST FOR SMILES!

After students had turned in their essays, the teacher asked them to sign a paper stating that they had received no outside assistance. One student raised his hand and said, "I don't know if I can sign this, because I prayed for God's help with the assignment."

The teacher picked up that student's essay and studied it for several minutes. Then the teacher looked up and said, "You can go ahead and sign the paper with a clear conscience. I'm sure God heard your prayer, but looks like he chose to let you do this one all by yourself."



In an effort to care for all of our members, we invite you to share with us when you, a family member or a friend is facing an illness, hospitalization, death or major life transition.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or update someone's condition, please secure their permission and notify us by contacting:

Rev. Maggie F. Beamguard

843-822-1875

maggie@westendpres.church

Martha Reeves, Church Administrator

910-673-4341

martha@westendpres.church

You will find the prayer list attached to the weekly email or you may pick up a copy from the narthex or church office.

LITURGIST SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 6

JUDY LAUT

SEPTEMBER 13

ALICE DROPPERS

SEPTEMBER 20

LINDA DEYOUNG

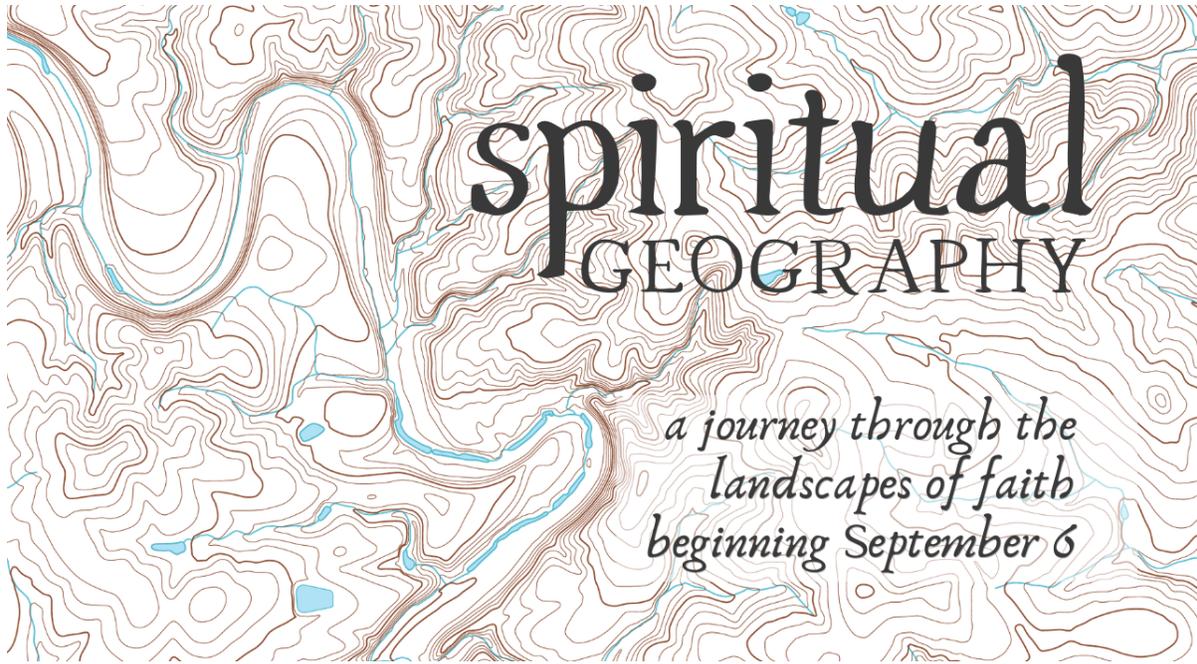
SEPTEMBER 27

LYNN GRAHAM



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



WORSHIP WITH US!

UNRAVELLED

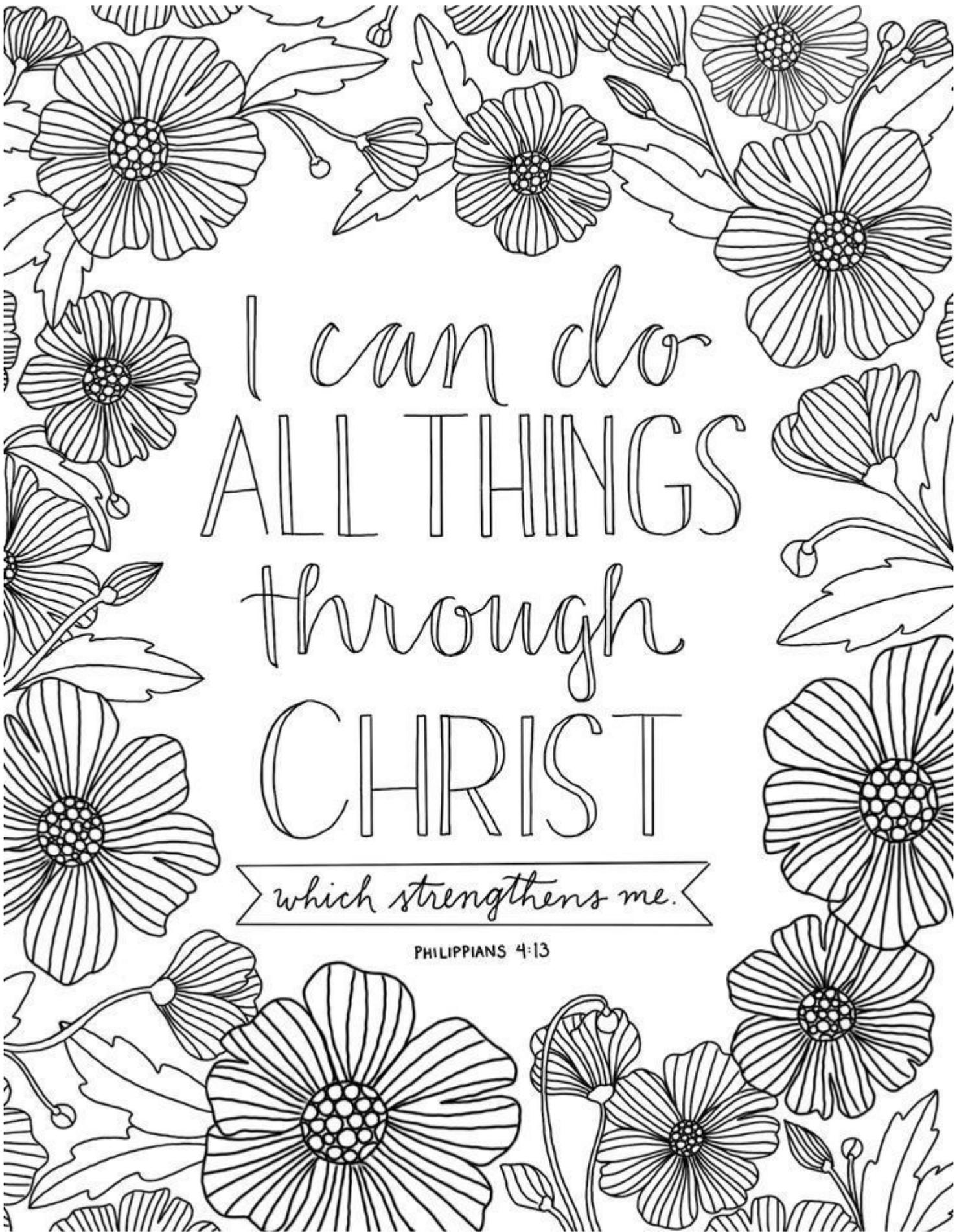
SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART

Thank you for participating in the Unraveled Worship Series Art Project!



Please return your completed weaving (art project) to the church office by September 14 to be included in our larger community art project to hang in the church.





I can do
ALL THINGS
through
CHRIST

which strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



SEPTEMBER 01	MACKENZIE LEWIS
SEPTEMBER 02	JUDY LAUT CHARLOTTE McDONALD
SEPTEMBER 05	SUE REAVES
SEPTEMBER 07	PAUL JAMES
SEPTEMBER 08	LEILA BROWN TONYA LEWIS
SEPTEMBER 11	DEBBIE BARE IAN SCOTT
SEPTEMBER 14	PAULA TAGGART GOLDIE TOON
SEPTEMBER 17	ANDREW PFEIFER
SEPTEMBER 21	KAMDEN LEWIS
SEPTEMBER 22	NEIL CLARK JOANIE JONES
SEPTEMBER 23	JO GUENTHER
SEPTEMBER 25	PEGGY CRAWFORD
SEPTEMBER 27	ROSS MORETON
SEPTEMBER 28	SARAH DAVIS BETTY STRONG
SEPTEMBER 30	CHAD HOLDERFIELD



SEPTEMBER 02	LAURA & BOB PITTS
SEPTEMBER 09	ANN & PETER CHASE
SEPTEMBER 12	LUCILLE & FRANK HAYES
SEPTEMBER 13	JO & BOB GUENTHER
SEPTEMBER 15	KIMBERLY & JEREMY RUST
SEPTEMBER 26	RENATE & DAVE ANDRES
SEPTEMBER 30	CATHY & COE HUDDLESTON

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT...

- ⇒ Bacon fat splatters all over the kitchen when you fry it; but the fat gathers all in one place when you eat it?
- ⇒ Low-fat bread tastes a whole lot better when its slathered with butter and cream cheese?
- ⇒ A grapefruit always seems to know where your eye is?
- ⇒ The more expensive the meal, the smaller the portions?
- ⇒ When you have something in your closet for two months, it shrinks two sizes?



•EMAILS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

(If you are not receiving emails from the church office, please give us a call and let us know. This is one of the best ways for us to reach our church family. An email goes out every Friday with events, reminders and links to worship.)

•OUR CHURCH WEBSITE: WWW.WESTENDPRES.CHURCH

(Here you will find links in place - simply click and follow!)

•WEPC'S FACEBOOK PAGE

(Like our page and follow us! Share our Worship link every Sunday morning with your friends.)

• SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL "THE GATHERING ROOM AT WEPC"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Sign ups open for WOW	2	3	4	5
6 Video Worship ~ Spiritual Landscape Series begins	7 <i>Happy Labor Day</i> Church Office Closed	8 10:00 Staff	9 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	10	11	12
13 Video Worship 2ND Sunday ~ Game Night @ Crawford Center 	14 10:00 Staff	15	16 WOW Zoom	17	18	19
20 Video Worship High School Youth Group	21 10:00 Staff 6:00 Session Newsletter Deadline	22 	23 WOW Zoom	24	25	26
27 Video Worship Middle School Youth Group	28 10:00 Staff	29	30 WOW Zoom	<p>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me</p> <p>— Philippians 4:13</p>		

West End Presbyterian Church



PO Box 13
275 Knox Lane
West End, NC 27376

Phone: 910-673-4341
Website: www.westendpres.church

*This newsletter is sent with a blessing
and a prayer to:*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Maggie F. Beamguard
Martha J. Parker
Jennifer Thomas Danis
Paula Montgomery
Sharon Bettini
Kathy Hess

Pastor
Church Administrator
Director of Music
Finance Administrator
Nursery Attendant
Sexton

maggie@westendpres.church
martha@westendpres.church
jennifer@westendpres.church
paula@westendpres.church
sharonbettini@gmail.com

CHURCH VISITING HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY FROM 9:00AM TO 12:00PM