

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2024



WESTMINSTER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUST

***The local church has become more and more insignificant in the lives of Americans.***

A Gallup research poll shows less than half of Americans attend church once a month, and only 20 percent attend weekly.

I could spend a year writing or talking about the reason for this, but one reason is that Americans don't trust. We have become a culture of distrust.

Poll after poll has indicated that Americans don't trust the presidency, Congress, the Supreme Court, the news media, science, Big Tech, the criminal justice system, the Church, and each other. Yet, according to Christian Psychologist, Henry Cloud, trust is the fundamental glue that holds society together.

So the question is, *who do we trust?*

For the believer, trusting that the Bible is the inspired word of God is as relevant today as it was when it was written thousands of years ago. The Bible says that we should place more trust in God than people (Psalm 118:8), but it also makes clear the importance of being a person people can trust if we will impact our communities.

Again, Henry Cloud believes that nothing works in life without trust. He wrote that God wired us to trust in his book *"Trust: Knowing When to Give It, When to Withhold It, How to Earn It, and How to Fix It When It Gets Broken"*. Cloud noted that "a beautiful first step" in this process of becoming a trusting person is learning to trust God.

*"Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the  
light and your justice as the noonday."  
Psalm 37:4-6.*



According to Dr. Jim Denison, “Although trust may be how God wired us, skepticism has grown in the past half-century, an era that began with Watergate and the Vietnam War and climaxed with the pandemic and the Capitol riot, prompting questions about the trustworthiness of many of the key institutions of our democracy.”

Gallup found that the average confidence rating for nine major US institutions fell from a high of 48 percent in 1979 to a low of 26 percent in 2023.

Cloud gave some critical essentials to becoming a trusting person and learning to put healthy trust in others.

Four of them are:

**1. Understanding:** “Trust begins not with convincing someone to trust you; it starts with someone feeling that you are trustworthy.” In other words, you can be trusted with confidence and that you care enough to listen.

**2. Motive:** “One of the most powerful drivers of trust is knowing that someone’s motive is rooted in a higher-calling principle or value that transcends their interests.” Meaning that you would not do anything to hurt someone intentionally. The needs of others are more important than your wants.

**3. Character:** “Can people trust your character?”

Are you trustworthy, honest, and reliable? Are you a person of integrity? Do you show respect and kindness? Are you free from gossip and complaining? Are you fair and free from prejudice? Do you hope for the best, work for the best, pray for the best, and believe the best?

**4. Track record:** “What someone has done before is usually the best indicator of what will happen next time.” For years, my son could not trust me because my track record wasn’t one of consistent behavior. Hopefully, my behavior has become more consistent with my words over time. It is never too late to start a new track record.

Author and pastor Paul Powell wrote in his Daily Devotional: “A person’s basic problem is his heart. Evil comes out of the heart (the moral, spiritual, and intellectual center). To measurably change society, you must seek to change a person’s heart, not just his economics, social habits, and environment.”

But people don’t listen to those they don’t trust.

Dr. Powell concluded, “Do you long to see society change? Do you desire to make America a better place to live? Let Christ change your life by His love and grace.” Become a person people can trust so they can hear the truth.

***You will do more good when people begin to see people who trust God  
and are becoming trustworthy.***

***May we be those people.***

*God Bless, Andy*



# "I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER"

A couple of Sundays ago, we sang the hymn, "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" during our worship service. In preparing for that service, I found this very interesting story about that hymn in a book titled, *Then Sings My Soul*, by Robert J. Morgan.

As a ten-year-old boy, when Philip Paul Bliss heard the sounds of a piano for the first time, his imagination was stirred. Later, riding his horse, Old Fanny, he had become a traveling musician. In 1870, he joined the staff of a Chicago church as music director and Sunday school superintendent. In March 1874, he became the song leader and children's director for the evangelistic campaigns of Major Daniel W. Whittle. All the while, Philip was penning some of America's favorite gospel songs.

By the end of 1876, Philip needed a break. He had just written the music to the words of "It Is Well with My Soul," and finished a whirlwind tour of meetings with Major Whittle. While he and his wife Lucy were spending the Christmas holidays with his family in Pennsylvania, a telegram arrived requesting they come to Chicago to sing at Moody's Tabernacle on the last Sunday of the year.

On December 29, 1876, leaving their two small children with Philip's mother, they boarded the *Pacific Express*. The snow was blinding, and the eleven-coach train was running about three hours late. About eight o'clock that night, as the train creaked over a chasm near Ashtabula, Ohio, the trestle bridge collapsed. The engine reached solid ground on the other side of the bridge, but the other cars plunged 75 feet into the ravine.





# *“I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER”*

Philip survived the crash and crawled out through a window. But within moments, fire broke out, and Lucy was still inside, pinned under the twisted metal of the iron seats. The other survivors urged Philip not to crawl back into the flaming wreckage. “If I cannot save her, I will perish with her,” he shouted, plunging into the fiery car. Both Philip and Lucy died. He was thirty-eight.

Philip’s trunk finally arrived in Chicago safely. In it were found the words to the last hymns he had written, one of which was:

*I will sing of my Redeemer,  
And His wondrous love to me.  
On the cruel cross He suffered,  
From the curse to set me free.*

*Sing, oh, sing, of my Redeemer.  
With His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
Paid the debt, and made me free.*

Carolyn Hansen  
Music Director





## “REDEEMING LOVE” (PART 2)

This is a continuation of last month’s newsletter article, a review of the TV movie by the same title.

The farmer’s brother, an unsavory man who abused alcohol and women, saw Angel walking along the road when she left the farmer who had wanted to marry her. The brother offered to give Angel a ride in return for her services. Having no money and not certain where she was going, Angel agreed to the terms. Finally, after three days travel, she asked to be left off in a larger city where she hoped to make a new life. But before they parted ways, Angel reminded the unscrupulous brother, that he was no better than she was because he had betrayed his own brother.

On the way back to the farm the brother realized what Angel said to him was true. He was a drunk, and he had betrayed his brother. At the farm he saw how withered his brother was with worry and sadness over Angel. The brother gave up drinking and helped with the farm work taking the load off his brother. After several weeks he decided to go searching for Angel to bring her back to his brother if she wanted to come.





## “REDEEMING LOVE” (PART 2)

Meanwhile Angel found a job working in an orphanage. The young children restored her sense of self-worth, love, and friendship. The day the brother arrived and found her was also the day the men who owned the brothel arrived and claimed Angel as their property. Angel knew which life to choose and which life she wanted no part of ever again. The brother brought her back almost to the farm and gave her a choice to turn back to her new life at the orphanage or continue to the farm. She chose to walk to the farm. You can guess the happy ending.

If there is hope for sinners like Angel and the unsavory brother in this story, isn't there also hope for each of us? Remember also the two sinners that hung on crosses alongside Jesus and how easily one found forgiveness. So can we. It's a choice each of us can make because God gave us the freedom to choose. Make the choice, pray for His strength and faith, then trust in Him, our Almighty God, our Savior and Redeemer.

This story parallels the Bible story of Hosea and his prostitute wife, Gomer. Read Hosea Chapters 1-3 to learn about this story and how it reflects Israel's relationship with God.

Dian Poochigian,  
Prayer Deacon





# MAY BIRTHDAY LIST

1 Ken Michels  
2 Evans Ashina  
5 Claire Pepper  
6 Karen Meyer  
6 Delaney Drury  
9 Julie Jeppesen  
12 Sophia de Chaud



15 Niki Schomas  
16 Becky Hill  
18 Glen Heintz  
18 Meredith Hill  
18 Kerry Proczko  
23 Lois Sherpitis  
25 Betty Gilmore  
25 Bob Hall

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Taco-bout a Party!*



COME ONE, COME ALL  
TO OUR FELLOWSHIP EVENT  
CELEBRATING  
CINCO DE MAYO!  
JOIN US AFTER CHURCH ON  
SUNDAY, MAY 5TH,  
IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
FOR A TACO BAR LUNCH AND  
SURPRISES!!

You might even learn a bit of history!



# MAY WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 21st, at 1:30 PM in the West Conference Room. Our book for discussion will be "The Love of My Life" by Rosie Walsh. If you were not at our meeting on April 16th you may pick up a copy of the book in the church office so you may read it before the meeting. All are welcome to join us for the discussion.

"Emma loves her husband Leo and their young daughter Ruby: she'd do anything for them. But almost everything she's told them about herself is a lie.

And she might just have got away with it, if it weren't for her husband's job. Leo is an obituary writer; Emma a well-known marine biologist. When she suffers a serious illness, Leo copes by doing what he knows best – researching and writing about his wife's life. But as he starts to unravel the truth, he discovers the woman he loves doesn't really exist. Even her name isn't real.

When the very darkest moments of Emma's past finally emerge, she must somehow prove to Leo that she really is the woman he always thought she was . . .

But first, she must tell him about the other love of her life."

Amazon.com







# Holy WEEK





# **PRESBYTERY OF THE HARVEST HOSTED BY WESTMINSTER APRIL 19 & 20**



**THE MISSION:  
TO BUILD FLOURISHING CHURCHES  
THAT MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.**



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**10 NORTH EDGELAWN DRIVE**  
**AURORA, IL 60506**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Kerry Proczko- Newsletter Editor

Meredith Hill- Graphic Artist

Barbara Halsey- Proof Reader

Lois Sherpitis- Production

