



# The Chimes

KNOW, GROW AND GO TOGETHER IN CHRIST

APRIL 2024

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To watch your WPC Sunday worship service online visit [wpcmedford.com](http://wpcmedford.com) and click on Watch Our Online Service

*"All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable."*

Matthew 13:34

## THINK AGAIN

Pastor Chris Ward



*"For as he thinks in his soul, so he is." – Proverbs 23:7*

You know that old saying, "You are what you eat"? It's a helpful reminder that the nutrition we take in provides the energy and building blocks that shape and run our physical bodies. Well Jesus has a similar, though almost reversed, teaching on what shapes us at a far deeper level.

After a conversation with some Scribes and Pharisees about what makes a person pure, Jesus tells a single-sentence mini-parable. "There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." (Mark 7:15) When his disciples later ask him to explain the parable, he tells them, "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts... and they defile a person." (7:21-23) In other words, as we might say that nutrition provides the building blocks of the body, so, Jesus says our thoughts become the building blocks of the soul. This truth is actually reflected in the way that our thoughts shape the physical wiring of our brains, leading to similar thoughts in the future.

This is one of the reasons why Jesus is so often working on our thought life. Whether it is the warnings he gives about thoughts during the Sermon on the Mount, or encouraging people to "look," or "consider," or "hear," or the many times Jesus said, "you have heard... but I say to you," it is clear that Jesus was constantly challenging people's established beliefs and patterns of thinking. In some ways it was his stated purpose at the beginning of his ministry. Remember that when Jesus says "Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand," (Mt. 3:2) he was more or less saying, "Rethink your foundations, for God is inviting you into a new way to be human."



**Jesus was constantly challenging people's foundations through his stories.**

Jesus was constantly challenging people's foundations. This is the purpose behind his most common form of teaching- parables. "Parable" comes from two Greek words *para* (alongside) and *bolla* (to throw). It is a teaching that "throws" a deeper meaning alongside ordinary and familiar images, usually in the form of

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a simple story. They're not just morality stories, they're opportunities for people to be surprised, to be shocked even, and to then pause and rethink their own lives, or attitudes, or actions. By using familiar themes and images, Jesus was able to draw people into places that they understood, but then twist the story in a way that took them far beyond what they thought they knew, to reconsider their lives from a different point of view. It is the power of story to, as C.S. Lewis says, "take all the things we know and restore to them the rich significance that has been hidden by the 'veil of familiarity.'" In his parables, Jesus used the familiar to lead people into understanding the eternal. He talked about seeds and sheep and vineyards and treasures, about family dynamics and community life and parties. He talked about things people knew about, so that they could think about things they hadn't yet considered. And Jesus told a LOT of parables! Jesus really wanted people to "think again" about their lives,

about who they were, about how they were meant to live, and where they were going. Jesus told these stories because he wanted to shape a new kind of people, a people through whom the kingdom of heaven might be seen. Jesus wanted to shape people's character.

We believe, here at Westminster, that God is reshaping us too, leading us deeper into purposeful lives that display God's own character and goodness and grace. God wants to lead us to deeper, fuller life right now and, ultimately, to eternal life still to come. So, it makes sense that we should spend some time in Jesus' stories as well, hearing once again words that may be familiar, but that also still carry surprising, sometimes even shocking, truths that can help us to slow down, think again and reclaim what God intended for us from the start. So, starting after Easter, and working through the summer, we'll spend our Sundays looking at the parables of Jesus as he invites us to "think again" about our own lives. We'll be comforted and we'll be challenged, we'll be encouraged and we'll be warned. And most importantly, we'll be invited to pause and reflect on our own lives as we let Jesus speak once more. "He who has ears, let him hear."



Jesus talked about things people knew, so that they could think about things they hadn't yet considered.

SCAN ME



**YOUNG ADULTS**

**HIKING**

**4/13 @ 5-8**

## MEET OUR NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

To learn what it means to be a Covenant Partner with Westminster Presbyterian Church, go to [wpcmedford.com](http://wpcmedford.com). Click on the Connect tab in the menu at the top, and then "The Next Step." Read the description and watch the five short videos found at the bottom of the page.

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."  
1 Corinthians 12:27*



### MILT & JUNE DEBUHR



#### MILT DEBUHR

Milt was born in Chicago Illinois but spent most of his early years in Wilmington Delaware and Southeastern Pennsylvania. He attended college at Iowa State

University through the Naval ROTC program. Milt met his wife, June, during his senior year and they were married the following December. Upon graduation in 1959, he received a BS degree in physics and was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy. After graduation, he attended flight school and flew patrol planes for the Navy. Following his service, Milt joined Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Sunnyvale California. His favorite Project was working as a systems engineer on the Hubble Space Telescope. He retired in

1998 and eventually moved to Yreka CA. In 2022 Milt and June made the move to Rogue Valley Manor where they now are happily settled.

#### JUNE DEBUHR

I was a traditional Iowa farmer's daughter and went to Iowa State University for a Home Economics degree where I met Milt. We have been married for 64 wonderful years and have four kids, eight grandkids and eight great-grand kids. While Milt was in the Navy we lived in a few different places, but eventually we settled in Cupertino where we raised our kids and I was a full time mom and volunteer. After retirement we migrated to Yreka and now we are in Medford at Rogue Valley Manor enjoying a completely new way of life. I enjoy meeting new people, exercise classes, singing with the choral group and volunteering at the boutique where we sell ladies clothing that folks are getting rid of. The highlight of my week is a ladies Bible study where I and a few close friends study God's word and share our lives. I have enjoyed my time at WPC and look forward to getting more involved and meeting new friends.

### MARLENE NELSON



I moved to Medford when I was 4 years old. I graduated from Eagle Point and then spent two years at Corbin University, learning more about the Bible. I then switched my major and graduated from OHSU as a

nurse, working in Portland, Los Angeles and Medford as a Pediatric Nurse.

I met my husband in seventh grade, started dating senior year, and married in 1980. We have a son in Portland that is married and has two little boys and an amazing wife. He is a programmer and she is a nurse. Our younger son is a teacher at St. Mary's. He married a wonderful woman, who does computer security, last May and is expecting his first child in April.

### JOHN & CARRIE HOW



#### JOHN HOW

I have two married daughters living with their families in Southern California and Salt Lake City. Though our roots are in the Bay Area, my late wife, Wendy, and I raised our daughters, Hilary and Heather in Sonoma County. Wendy and I knew Carrie and Steve Morris through

First Presbyterian Church in Santa Rosa. First Steve, and then Wendy passed away. Carrie then moved to Ashland. Carrie and I connected several years later. After a while, I sold my house, moved to Ashland, and we got married.

Though my love is the Liberal Arts, I guess you would say my career was as a business man dealing mostly with commercial property, but some retail sales, too.

I love to read. I have been a long-time student of Bible Study Fellowship. I've also been a long-time member of Rotary International. I enjoy golf and I'm always looking to pick-up a game.

Carrie and I are happy to have found each other and WPC, and we Thank GOD for every day.

#### CARRIE HOW

My mom, sister, and I moved from Sonoma County as our own little "pod" in 2020 (at the beginning of COVID.) As a widow of eight years, I then met and married my John. We moved into a house just big enough for two, and I retired from my career as a Marriage and Family Therapist. It's been quite a season!

My 25-year old daughter, Ellie, is half-way through her training to become a chiropractor down in Los Angeles, California. (I think there are more 'adjustments' in my future!)

I enjoy writing, cross-country skiing, dancing, and traveling with my husband, John.

Since I was a teenager, I've been aware of God's steady, reckless love for me – the one unchangeable part of my life.

*"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. -Rom. 12:4-5"*

## OUR NEW ELDERS



Jim Wallan



Mary Curry



Mark Hammitt

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Randy Wooton

Helping Hands International

We have supported their local Southern Oregon Makeover for the last four years. This year’s project is in Grants Pass. There is no cost to volunteers and transportation will be from Medford to the worksite and return each day. Dates are May 18 – June 1. For more information or to register go to: helpinghandsinternational.com/volunteer

WPC Youth Group

Dereck and the youth are going to be building and renovating at three different sites in Medford that are managed by Rogue Retreat. Possible dates are June 10 – June 15. Contact Dereck for more information and to register. This is an opportunity to interact with our youth in a cross-generational atmosphere. You will also be doing something valuable for the community.

Hope’s Promise: Mathare Valley Orphans.

In 2019, WPC helped create a post-secondary education fund for students who were aging out of the orphanage and who qualified. We provided a starting fund of \$25,000 from a special gift. Higher education access in Kenya is very competitive, but not overly expensive. In the past, we have had two members graduate and four more will be graduating this year. We have five students who are continuing and three more students who are beginning their post-secondary education in 2025. Even though the original fund will be depleted at the end of this year, Mission is going to continue to support this highly successful program. If you are interested in this project, contact Randy Wooton [drwoot@charter.net](mailto:drwoot@charter.net) or 541-601-4575.

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL OF WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY



We want to give a big thank you to the Westminster Church for making our recent Bingo Night/ Book Fair a huge success! With your help, we had an amazing turnout of over 200 people who enjoyed buying books and playing Bingo together.

Your donations made a real difference, bringing our school community closer and creating wonderful memories for everyone involved. We're also proud to share that our students are doing great academically and socially.

In other news, our school continues to thrive with exciting activities and achievements. Students showed strong growth in their reading and writing this school year. We have had the opportunity to connect with the community through SMART, Mercy Flights, Mt. St. Helens Institute, Field Trips, and Read Across America!

A heartfelt thank you to the Westminster Church for your continued support. It is immeasurably appreciated!

Shelby Moffitt, NBCT, Principal  
Washington Elementary



hungry to connect with God?

worship night for youth



Sun. Apr. 14th @ 6-8p  
At First Baptist Church Medford

A time of worship, prayer, & games with other students in medford

RSVP:  
[https://bit.ly/sun\\_apr\\_14\\_6pm](https://bit.ly/sun_apr_14_6pm)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**JULY 1-3**

**SPORTS CAMP**

**9 - 12 PM**

For Kids Pre-K to 5th grade

Registration opens in May 2024

*Thank you*

WPC Family,

Our heartfelt thanks for your prayers these past few months. Our son, Dave has had his cancerous prostate gland removed and is recovering very well. Jane's lobular breast cancer has been removed and she is now again cancer free!

We thank our Lord, and all of you, for upholding us in these events. This church family is amazing. May we all grow in caring for each other's needs.

Praise and thanks,

*Jane & Mike Haverly*



**Sunday April 21 1-3PM**

**You are invited to our 2024 Spring Celebration**

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of **FREE ACTIVITIES!**

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2000 Oakwood Drive, Medford [wpcmedford.com](http://wpcmedford.com)

## SABBATICAL REST

*Pastor Lori Boehning*

The concept of a sabbatical comes from Leviticus 25 and God's command to give the land a "sabbath of rest" in the seventh year. This year of rest provided time for the land to renew itself *and* it served as a reminder to God's people that the bounty of the land ultimately comes from God, not just their hard work. As part of our Terms of Call, our congregation graciously offers a three-month sabbatical for each pastor after seven full years of ministry. This time of sabbatical rest is offered with full pay and benefits so that the time away is not a hardship to the pastor and his/her family. A Sabbatical for a pastor is not a three-month vacation; rather, it is a time to rest, renew, and be refreshed so that future ministry is ensured. I am so thankful to be part of a congregation that recognizes the value of "Sabbath time" for their pastors and even insures that time in our Terms of Call.



On September 1, 2008, I was hired on staff here at Westminster and later that fall was ordained and installed as your Associate Pastor. I took my first sabbatical in 2016 after receiving a generous grant from the Lily Foundation. Focusing on the concept of change, my husband, Bill, and I traveled to South Africa for five weeks to explore the changes that country had experienced in the 25 years since the fall of apartheid. We traveled to Europe for two weeks with our young adult children, grateful for the opportunity to experience and explore a change of culture as a family. I spent time on the Oregon Coast, studying God's Word and reflecting on God's faithful presence through the many changes in my life. It was a sabbatical that made my heart sing!

Amazingly, the opportunity for rest and renewal is here again! Although it was due in 2023, we were in the thick of church transformation at that time, so I delayed my sabbatical until this year. By God's good grace, I will be on leave from May 6 through July 28. During those three months, I look forward to making space to simply be with God. I look forward to silent retreats, journaling, meditating on God's Word, and participating in worship services with other church families. I hope to begin the process of writing my memoirs and I look forward to seeing loved ones at a family reunion. Part of the time will be spent on the Oregon Coast and part here in Medford, with a trip to Wisconsin/Illinois/Michigan included. During my time away, I appreciate prayers for safe travels, deep rest, and transformative times with our good and beautiful God.

God's Peace and Joy to you all!

A colorful graphic for Westminster Cooperative Preschool featuring two children and text. The background is a collage of bright colors and patterns. Two children, a boy and a girl, are smiling and looking at the camera. The text is arranged in a list-like format with horizontal lines.

**WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE  
PRESCHOOL**  
**2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**  
**Open Enrollment**  
**For more information contact  
Julie Ward, Preschool Director**  
**— — julie@wpcmedford.com — —**  
**541-414-8558**



## CONVERSATIONS: A SIMPLE APPROACH TO SHARING THE GOSPEL

Gene Stringer

**Sunday, April 14**

**1-4 PM in the Gathering Place**

(12:30-1 PM pizza lunch option)

*You got me when I was an unformed youth, God, and taught me everything I know. Now I'm telling the world your wonders; I'll keep at it until I'm old and gray. God, don't walk off and leave me until I get out the news of your strong right arm to this world, news of your power to the world yet to come,*  
*Psalm 71:17-18 (The Message)*

Few Christians experience the thrill of being used by God to help another person decide to follow Jesus. Yet, it can happen in our everyday conversations! This workshop will help you hone your witnessing skills and thoughtfully follow the Holy Spirit's leading. Best of all, we get to learn and practice together with our friends in the Gathering Place at church.

Note: An optional pizza lunch will be provided starting at 12:30 PM for those who request it.

For registration and questions contact **Gene Stringer** at [geneastringer@gmail.com](mailto:geneastringer@gmail.com) or 541-512-2856.

## NEW COVENANT PARTNER TRAINING

**Sunday April 7, 14, 21, and 28**

**10 AM – 10:50 AM**

Resurrection Room

For all who would like to learn our church's basic beliefs. For more information call or text Lorraine Ferrell at 541-324-4995.

## REFUEL

Veronika Comerchero



On a cold morning this spring, I treated myself to the full-serve lane at the gas station. Rolling down my window, I was greeted with a warm smile. "Hi! How is your morning going so far?" the attendant asked. The question itself wasn't unusual, but the way in which she asked it

was - looking directly into my eyes with obvious sincerity. In the same unusually sincere manner, she continued conversing with me while tending to the task at hand. As she handed me the receipt, I said to her, "I really appreciate your kindness. I'm actually having kind of a rough morning and you just brightened my day." Coming closer, she leaned in through my open car window and gave me a hug, saying, "I want you to have a better day." I'm fairly certain a hug is not a regular part of full-serve, but on that particular day it was exactly what I needed, and I told her so.

Did you know that hugs are proven to decrease stress, anxiety and depression? According to therapists, we need four hugs a day for survival, eight for maintenance, and 12 for growth. Given that we are created in the image of God - created for "relationship, as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in relationship - it's not surprising that hugs are healthy for us! Five verses in the New Testament even instruct us to greet one another with a *holy kiss*. While this is certainly not common practice in our culture, and we are likely to be more comfortable with a *holy hug*, Scripture conveys that we are to greet one another warmly and sincerely, reflecting the special love we share in Christ. It's what we are created for...and doing so may help fill our tank when we are running on empty.

*Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.*  
– 2 Corinthians 13:11-12



A special training opportunity  
for volunteers of WPC & our  
ministry partners

# TBRI

Trust-Based Relational  
Intervention training

On Saturday  
April 6, May 4,  
June 8 & July 13  
8:30AM – 3PM

Snacks  
& Lunch  
Provided

\$10 per  
session

Enroll by Wednesday, April 3

<https://wpcmedford.flocknote.com/signup/158594>

Questions? Call or text  
Julie Ward 541-414-8558

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

*Corry Louie*

The following is from an interview from a Care Receiver (CR) who had experienced a caring relationship with a Stephen Minister.

Corry: Can you tell me about your experience with a Stephen Minister?

**CR:** Actually, I had 2 different situations where I had a Stephen Minister; once after my mother died, and again after my husband died. In both instances, I was helped through a difficult time by having a Stephen Minister visit me.

Corry: Can you tell me what you liked about having a Stephen Minister?

**CR:** Their faith came through very strongly and it encouraged me in my faith. They didn't preach but they supported me and really listened to me. That was exactly what I needed at that time. Through them, I was referred to Grief Share and I was also helped by that program.

Corry: Where did you meet with your Stephen Minister?

**CR:** It was at my house, or sometimes at a park or a coffee shop. We would meet and talk for an hour or 45 minutes.

Corry: How long were these relationships?

**CR:** The first time was a year or so and the second time was shorter than that. They would meet with me as long as I needed the help and support. We became very good friends and still are good friends.

Corry: Would you recommend the program to others?

**CR:** Yes, I would highly recommend the program. It helps to know that you are not alone and that someone cares about you and is praying for you.

If you are going through a difficult time, a Stephen Minister could help walk beside you. Please call the office and ask to talk to Pastor Lori or Pastor Chris about Stephen Ministry.



## GriefShare®

### WINTER/SPRING

*Janie Stewart*

The Winter/Spring 2024 GriefShare Ministry continues each Monday at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Place. This month the video seminar will cover the following topics:

Session 6	April 1	Anger
Session 7	April 8	Regrets
Session 8	April 15	Grief & Your Household
Session 9	April 22	Grief & Your Friendships

Each week we view a video presentation featuring insights and personal stories from Christian experts to help you through the grief process. Following the video we take time for group discussion about what you saw, how it applies to your life struggles, and a review of the workbook chapter.

It's never too late to join us. For more information, please call the Westminster Presbyterian Church Office (541-773-8274), or Janie Stewart (541-326-1677), or visit online: [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).



**LADIES' BIBLE STUDY ON MONDAYS**

*Renee Anderson*

We invite you to join us **on Mondays at 1:30PM in the WPC Resource Center** (formerly known as the Library.) We receive the sermon notes from the prior Sunday and spend an hour and a half together going over the sermon in a discussion format.

For more details, text Renee at **541-941-4390** or email her at [49isabellamarie@gmail.com](mailto:49isabellamarie@gmail.com)

## Important Dates

- Apr 6 TBRI Training
- Apr 13 Young Adult Hiking
- Apr 14 Youth Group Worship Night
- Apr 14 Conversations: Sharing the Gospel
- Apr 21 Spring Celebration
- May 4 TBRI Training
- May 18 Southern Oregon Makeover
- May 19 Mission Fair
- May 19 All-Church Pickleball & Picnic
- Jun 10 – 15 YG Rogue Retreat Renovations



phone: 541-773-8274  
 website: [wpcmedford.com](http://wpcmedford.com)  
 email: [office@wpcmedford.com](mailto:office@wpcmedford.com)

### PASTORS/LEADERSHIP

- Lead Pastor .....Rev. Chris Ward, ext. 101
- Pastor of Congregational Life ..... Rev. Lori Boehning, ext. 102
- Church Administrator .....Craig Ellerbeck, ext. 105
- Next Generation Director ..... Dereck Woodcock, 104
- WestKids Director.....Hannah Woodcock, 103
- Lead Office Coordinator ..... Lisa Forst, ext. 108
- Admin. Assistant..... Marcie Dixon, ext. 100
- Preschool Director ..... Julie Ward, ext. 110
- Worship Director ..... Amy Bell
- Choir Director ..... Terri Steinhorst
- Organist/Pianist..... Dolores Bell
- Custodian/Maintenance.....Dave Dutenhoefer
- Custodian.....Nicole Plank

### ELDERS:

#### Class of 2024

- Sherry Ettlich
- Lorraine Ferrell
- Jim Wallan

#### Class of 2025

- Andy Baker
- Jim Coli
- Nick Daley
- Alan Jackson

#### Class of 2026

- McKenzie Conard
- Chris George
- Lisa Rono

Sherry Ettlich: Clerk of Session                      [clerk@westminsterpres.com](mailto:clerk@westminsterpres.com)

### DEACONS:

- |                |               |                 |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Jane Connor    | Mary Curry    | Hank Darlington |
| Bunny Grimes   | Karen Hartley | Corry Louie     |
| Barbara McLeod | Andrea Newman | John Rogers     |
| Rosa Romano    | Jean Shyrer   | Stefan Wolf     |
| Peggy Ziessau  |               |                 |

- Are you a Veteran? Please let us know. We like to honor our Veterans.
- New to the Westminster family? Let us know your birthday and/or wedding anniversary, and we would be happy to include them in the *Chimes*. Call our office at 541-773-8274 or email [office@wpcmedford.com](mailto:office@wpcmedford.com).

**OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
 9 AM to noon  
 and 1 PM to 4 PM  
 Wednesday 9 AM to 11:30 AM  
 and 1 PM to 4 PM  
**We are closed Fridays**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
 Articles for the **May** issue of the *Chimes* are due **April 10**.  
 Submissions may be emailed to the office at [office@wpcmedford.com](mailto:office@wpcmedford.com).  
 If you have questions, feel free to contact Marcie or Lisa in the office.

**SAVE THE DATE**

## All-Church Pickleball & Picnic

May 19, 2024  
1PM – 4PM