



# The Covenanter

May 2024



Winter Park  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 AM | Sunday School: 9:15 AM  
400 S. Lakemont Avenue | Winter Park, FL 32792 | 407-647-1467 | [www.winppc.org](http://www.winppc.org)  
Newsletter Submissions: [cindym@winppc.org](mailto:cindym@winppc.org)

 <h1>MAY</h1> 			WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3	SATURDAY 4
			<b>Coalition Mix &amp; Bake Brownies</b> 9am/Kitchen <b>PS Chapel</b> 9:35am, Sanctuary <b>WPPC Handbells</b> 6pm, Rm 102 <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:15pm, Sanctuary	<b>Coalition Prepare Meal</b> 9:30am/Kitchen	<b>Coalition Food Prep</b> 9am/Kitchen <b>Serve the Meal</b> 3:30pm/FH-gather 4:00pm/Depart	
SUNDAY 5	MONDAY 6	TUESDAY 7	WEDNESDAY 8	THURSDAY 9	FRIDAY 10	SATURDAY 11
<b>Communion Worship Svc.</b> 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15-10:15am <b>Children's Church</b> 10:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b> 11:30am, FH	<b>Staff Meeting</b> 10:30am, Rm 301	<b>PS Chapel</b> 9:35am, Sanctuary <b>PS Board Mtg</b> 10:30am, Rm 301 <b>Bereavement Grp</b> 4pm, Rm 303 <b>WPPC Handbells</b> 6pm, Rm 102 <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:15pm, Sanctuary		<b>Tai Chi</b> 11:30am, FH <b>Kid's Night Out</b> 5pm, FH	
SUNDAY 12	MONDAY 13	TUESDAY 14	WEDNESDAY 15	THURSDAY 16	FRIDAY 17	SATURDAY 18
 <b>Mother's DAY</b> <b>Worship Svc.</b> 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15-10:15am <b>Children's Church</b> 10:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b> 11:30am, FH <b>Hannah Circle</b> 6pm, Rm 301	<b>Staff Meeting</b> 10:30am, Rm 301 <b>Young at Heart</b> 2:30pm, FH	<b>PS Family Chapel</b> 9:35am, Sanctuary <b>WPPC Handbells</b> 6pm, Rm 102 <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:15pm, Sanctuary	<b>Communion Svc</b> <b>Westminster WP</b> 11am <b>Neighbors &amp; Friends Lunch</b> 11:30am, FH <b>Deacon Meeting</b> 7pm, Rm 301		
SUNDAY 19	MONDAY 20	TUESDAY 21	WEDNESDAY 22	THURSDAY 23	FRIDAY 24	SATURDAY 25
 <b>Pentecost</b> <b>Worship Svc.</b> 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15-10:15am <b>Children's Church</b> 10:30am	<b>Tai Chi</b> 11:30am, FH	<b>Staff Meeting</b> 10:30am, Rm 301	<b>PS Chapel</b> 9:35am, Sanctuary <b>WPPC Handbells</b> 6pm, Rm 102 <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:15pm, Sanctuary	<b>Session Meeting</b> 7pm, Rm 301	<b>Tai Chi</b> 11:30am, FH	
SUNDAY 26	MONDAY 27	TUESDAY 28	WEDNESDAY 29	THURSDAY 30	FRIDAY 31	
 <b>Trinity Sunday</b> <b>Worship Svc.</b> 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15-10:15am <b>Children's Church</b> 10:30am	<b>Office Closed</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> 10:30am, Rm 301	<b>PS Chapel</b> 9:35am, Sanctuary <b>WPPC Handbells</b> 6pm, Rm 102 <b>Chancel Choir</b> 7:15pm, Sanctuary		<b>Tai Chi</b> 11:30am, FH	



IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SUBMIT FOR THE COVENANTER,  
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT EDITION WILL BE FOR JUNE/JULY.  
PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS BY MAY 15TH.

THE AUGUST EDITION WILL GO OUT THE END OF JULY AND  
SUBMISSIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY JULY 15TH.

# Pentecost

**“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:1-2**

The month of May for us is an opportunity to celebrate the Holy Spirit. The presence of God’s Spirit in its fullness among us. We have many questions. Perhaps the first two being, what is the Holy Spirit and what does God’s Spirit do? Well, to be sure, these are questions that cannot entirely be answered as God’s Spirit is beyond our comprehension. However, even though the Holy Spirit is beyond our understanding, we discover through the Scriptures many things like: God’s Spirit is even present, “In the beginning...” Genesis 1:2

Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit of God resides with people, like Moses and the Hebrews. The Spirit of God is present among the judges and the prophets. In the New Testament, the Spirit of God dwelt with Mary and she was “overshadowed by the power of the Most High” (Luke 1:35). The gospels record that the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus at His baptism. The Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost. The Spirit of God was with Paul. The Spirit of God directed Phillip to a chariot so he could share the gospel story (Acts 8:29). The Holy Spirit carried Phillip away (Acts 8:39).

There are hundreds of references to the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures and from these we discover the Spirit of God was, is, and will be. The Holy Spirit’s presence is a gift of God’s people at crucial moments in history. The Holy Spirit can physically engage with people. God’s Spirit is personal, bringing comfort to the suffering, an assurance of God’s presence to the lonely and yet capable of pricking the human consciousness - exposing our selfishness, while revealing God’s selflessness.

St. Basil the Great wrote, “What does the Spirit do? His works are ineffable in majesty, and innumerable in quantity. How can we even ponder what extended beyond the ages? What did God’s Spirit do before creation began? How great are the graces the Holy Spirit as showered upon creation? What power will He wield in the age to come? He existed, He pre-existed; He coexisted with the Father and the Son before the ages. Even if you can imagine anything beyond the ages, you will discover the Spirit of God is even further beyond.”

Perhaps, reading the above makes the last aspect of God’s Spirit mentioned here all the more mysterious. 1st Corinthians, 3:16 states, “God’s Spirit lives within you.”

I hope in the days ahead, we’ll discover more of what this means for us, and having a basic answer to the question, “what does the Spirit do?” Shift our curiosity outward and selflessly begin asking, “what does the Spirit *want me* to do?”

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Darren

## VOLUNTEER spotlight

As coordinator for the Compassion Committee's "Feeding the Homeless" program, I work with many volunteers from our church. Recently, Joann Robertson — a long-time volunteer and the leader of the brownie bagging team — decided to pass the leadership torch to someone else. As a way of acknowledging her many years of service, and that of her sister Dona Stepp, I interviewed them for this **Volunteer Spotlight**. ~ Anna Caparis



JOANN ROBERTSON



DONA STEPP

### How many years have you been on the brownie team?

**Joann:** From the first day it started. I don't remember what year that was, but I was one of the original volunteers. [according to our church history, the exact year when WPPC started serving at the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida isn't known. But, it was in the early 1990s. In which case, Joann is a 30 + year veteran]

**Dona:** 2016

### How did you become involved with the brownie team?

**Joann:** When I joined the church, I asked about volunteer activities, and signed up for the brownie team before I even knew what it was all about.

**Dona:** I became involved because of Joann. [Joann is the oldest, and Dona might also say, with a twinkle in her eye, "the boss"]

### What has motivated you to continue with this volunteer activity all these years?

**Joann:** The church's need. And also, at my age I can still do it. Years ago, I helped with Vacation Bible School, and other things involving kids.

**Dona:** Joann!

### If you could give one piece of advice to a younger generation, what would it be?

**Joann:** If you attend a church, get involved and help make it better.

**Dona:** Remember to be kind to others.

# Easter REFLECTION

*The Easter celebration is just a memory as we turn our calendars to May. The decorations, Easter baskets, and the WPPC empty wooden cross and flower cross are stored away, out of sight for next year. What isn't out of sight are the memories stored in our hearts as we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord.*

*The Spirit of celebration and anticipation were most definitely experienced by the children as they gathered for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th, hosted by the Community Life Committee. This year the children and their families all gathered in the sanctuary as they arrived. The guests were greeted and welcomed by Steve House. The Easter story was read by Jeannie Vinci, and Cathy House projected pictures for all to view. They were dismissed with prayer and entered fellowship hall where a light brunch was served. The Christian Education Committee provided simple crafts for the children and fellowship hall was abuzz with anticipation for the actual Easter Egg hunt! Squeals of delight could be heard as the children found the precious eggs.*

*The Easter Egg Hunt is usually a chaotic scene as the children gather. This year was different. The gathering of children and their families in the sanctuary reminded everyone why the Easter celebration matters. Because of the children, all left fellowship hall feeling refreshed and renewed in the Spirit of the Living Christ.*

## WPPC 2024 EASTER EGG HUNT





*God is continuing to bless WPPC with new members! This month, we are featuring Chuck & Linda Schindler, who joined our family in February. If you haven't yet met them, be sure to say hello and make them feel welcome, and stay tuned, we have more coming in the next few months!*



**Chuck & Linda Schindler**

Joined: February 18, 2024

Chuck and Linda Schindler joined WPPC after visiting for several years. They met while working for General Dynamics in the 1970s and have been married for 44 years. They have a son, daughter, and 4 grandchildren, 2 in Austin, Texas and 2 in central Florida. Chuck grew up in Rochester, NY near the shore of Lake Ontario, where he loved sailing. Linda's family is from southern Mississippi and lived in Texas, California, Germany, and Florida while her father served in the Air Force. They enjoy boating on the St. Johns River, going to the beach, and watching their grandkids in their sports activities (usually ice hockey). They also enjoy Florida Gators and UCF Knights football (their kids' alma maters). They are past members of a Presbyterian church in Sanford and a Methodist church in Casselberry and are excited to be part of the WPPC family.



**NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS**

The Neighbors and Friends ministry welcomes any and all adults to join us for our next monthly luncheon. We will gather at 11:30am on Thursday, May 16th in Fellowship Hall where we will enjoy another catered lunch. The cost for the meal is \$15. Reservations must be made by May 13th by calling the church office at 407-647-1467.

You will not want to miss this gathering. Our program, *A Vision for WPPC*, will be presented by Dr. Bess and members of the church. A visioning team has been hard at work over the past two years planning and looking to the future. Our church officers have given their input. It is now time to present the findings to the congregation. The N & F luncheon will be a time to hear the results, to listen, and to ask questions.

Please join us for fellowship around the tables as we share a meal. You are invited to bring your own lunch if necessary, or just come for the program. If you'd like, please bring canned fruit that we will share with a local food bank. We look forward to your participation in this ministry as we connect with old friends, make new friends, and look to the future of WPPC.



### **SPECIAL OFFERING—CARING FOR GENERATIONS SUNDAY, MAY 12TH**

For more than 50 years Florida Presbyterian Homes and Westminster Communities of Florida have been connected to the church through a covenant agreement, first with the Synod of Florida and then with the Synod of South Atlantic. Due to generous contributions by Presbyterian congregations, residents at Florida Presbyterian Homes and Westminster Communities of Florida can count on the Benevolent Assistance program for support. This safety net assures residents that they will continue to remain in their homes and get the care they need, even though they have outlived their financial resources. They can experience an increased lifespan due to better health and medical care. Higher costs of healthcare, prescriptions, and the economy have presented a whole new set of concerns which could be overwhelming without assistance from those who are more fortunate.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40:



“As you did to one of the least of My brethren, you did to Me.”

WPPC will gratefully accept your special offering on Mother’s Day, May 12th. All the donations received will be sent to Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation.

### **PENTECOST OFFERING—AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE SUNDAY, MAY 19TH**

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, descending as tongues of fire over the heads of the Apostles, giving them the gift to speak to all nations in their own tongues and spread the Good News. The Spirit also brings us a new life on this day. With the Spirit’s coming, we no longer need to settle for business as usual but can know the transforming, redeeming love of God that makes the impossible “possible”. This special offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people by inspiring them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world to build a life of faith—all in the name of Jesus Christ.



The Pentecost offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the PC (USA) during the church year. The first 60% of our donations will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (25% to assist young adult volunteers serving communities; 25% to guide youth ministries; and 10% to advance child advocacy). The remaining forty percent of our offering will be used on behalf of children-at-risk in our own community. This year we are supporting The Center for Women and Families at the Coalition for the Homeless. This residential shelter serves single women, single women with children, single men with children, and intact families. With your support, these agencies can help meet the needs of these vulnerable neighbors.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration to support these most worthy causes on Sunday, May 19th.

Remember to wear RED to celebrate Pentecost!

The Compassion Committee thanks all who supported these Special Offerings.



Have you ever found yourself saying yes to things you'd rather not do, just to keep others happy? You're not alone. Many of us struggle with the need to please people around us, even when it costs us our own comfort and happiness. This urge comes from a mix of emotions and personality traits that push us towards seeking approval and avoiding conflict at any cost.

### **KEY POINTS**

People pleasers often say yes to things they don't want to do because they fear rejection and crave approval, which can lead to neglecting their own needs.

Constantly trying to make others happy can cause stress, anger, and harm relationships due to a lack of genuine interaction and feeling undervalued.

Setting boundaries and prioritizing self-care are key strategies for overcoming the urge to please others at one's own expense. Saying no is important for health and well-being.

### **DEFINITION OF A PEOPLE PLEASER**

A people pleaser is someone who works hard to make others happy, often putting other people's needs before their own. This desire comes from fear of rejection or a deep need for affection and approval.

People pleasers are great at reading emotions and can be really helpful, kind-hearted, and agreeable. Yet, they find it tough to decline requests from others, even if it means neglecting their own needs. These individuals might not realize the toll this behavior takes on their well-being. They aim to control how others see them by always agreeing and offering help, hoping this will make them liked more. Sadly, this can lead to feeling drained and unhappy because they spend so much energy on pleasing everyone else.

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL CAUSES OF PEOPLE-PLEASING BEHAVIOR**

Many people who always try to make others happy fear being left alone. They believe that by making everyone around them happy, they can avoid the pain of abandonment. Some individuals think very little of themselves and doubt their value unless someone else approves of them. This lack of self-esteem makes it hard for them to say no, leading them down a path where their main goal is pleasing people, even if it means sacrificing their well-being.

### **SIGNS YOU MIGHT BE A PEOPLE-PLEASER**

You might not know it, but being a people-pleaser can take a toll. If you're always trying to make others happy, watch out for these signs.

- ◆ You say yes when you want to say no, because you want people to like you.
- ◆ Feeling upset if someone is unhappy with you. People-pleasers worry a lot about what others think of them.
- ◆ Your schedule is packed because you can't turn people down. This leaves little time for yourself.
- ◆ Apologizing too much shows up often in people-pleasers' lives. Saying sorry for things that aren't your fault or are beyond your control is a way of avoiding conflict.



### **SIGNS YOU MIGHT BE A PEOPLE-PLEASER, CONT'D**

- ◆ Struggling to express your true feelings happens when you're too focused on keeping the peace because it could upset someone else.
- ◆ Always seeking approval from others means needing their validation to feel good about yourself.
- ◆ Putting yourself last ignores your own needs while you're busy catering to everyone else.

### **NEGATIVE RESULTS OF PEOPLE-PLEASING**

If these points resonate with you, it might be time to think about how people-pleasing affects your life and consider ways to change this pattern. Constantly striving to make others happy at the expense of one's own needs and boundaries can have a profoundly negative impact on various aspects of a people pleaser's life.

- ◆ Anger and Frustration
- ◆ Anxiety and Stress
- ◆ Weaker Relationships
- ◆ Trying hard to make everyone happy often leads to not being true to oneself.
- ◆ Manipulative behaviors

### **STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME PEOPLE-PLEASING TENDENCIES**

- ◆ By learning to say "no" with confidence and kindness, individuals can begin to manage others' expectations while respecting their own needs and limitations.
- ◆ Establishing Boundaries
- ◆ Setting Goals and Priorities
- ◆ Reevaluating your priorities and practicing the art of saying "no" when necessary.
- ◆ Prioritizing self-care
- ◆ Acknowledge your own needs and set boundaries to protect your time and energy. Engage in activities that promote relaxation, such as meditation or spending time alone.
- ◆ Seek support if needed, but be patient with yourself during this process of ensuring you prioritize self-care to replenish emotional reserves.

### **CONCLUSION**

Understanding the psychology behind being a people pleaser is essential. People-pleasing behavior can have negative impacts on mental and emotional well-being, leading to stress, resentment, and weakened relationships.

Overcoming these tendencies involves setting boundaries, prioritizing self-care, and asserting one's needs. Recognizing and addressing people-pleasing traits is crucial for personal growth and overall well-being.



Wendy Stafford  
WPPC Health Care Coordinator  
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## The Crown of Life

Funerals are a part of life. Yet as Christians, we have the blessed hope of eternal life with the Lord which also enables us to compassionately help those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

But each time there is another death, another funeral, those events should always bring to our minds the powerful truth of Grace, *and how important it is to share the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ who paid the debt we owe for our sins...to the still-living!*

Jesus shared that Good News, not yet *called* Grace, when He told the parable of the Prodigal Son, (Luke 15:11-32), because He knew it illustrated an important truth. We all need to understand that God is a loving Father who forgives His children when they repent of their sins and come back "home" to Him. The Prodigal Son is a beautiful story of His mercy and forgiveness, and of our acceptance of God's gift of Grace.

Jesus also demonstrated Grace on the cross when He forgave the repentant sinner who was being crucified next to Him, *reassuring him that, today, he would be with Him in paradise.* Luke 23:39-43

By sharing these 2 events in the life of Christ, we too are reassured, no, *more than that - we witness and believe the Truth of Grace...*that for as long as unrepentant sinners draw breaths, they have the choice to travel along that road called Repentance, in hope and in faith, which will take them back to the One who conquered death, the One who offers each one of them a new eternal life in Him.

This past March, a young mother, granddaughter to our friend, Sue Rudolph, passed away, after a long battle with cancer. Christina's memorial service was so lovely in so many ways, yet the story about her journey to Grace makes this funeral even more special because Christina's story is like the Prodigal Son's parable.



She too was loved by her family and knew the Lord. She grew up in our church. When she was first diagnosed with cancer, she had faith and a positive outlook, determined to beat this horrible disease. As time went on and the pain and suffering became harder and harder, and when she experienced the death of a godly friend from cancer, her heart slowly became hardened. She became angry with God and chose to turn away from Him. Her friend had so much faith and yet...she died. Christina couldn't understand the "why". So, she laid aside her faith, but not her determination and willingness to fight her illness...*however, she was trying to do it in her own strength and apart from His Will.*

For many years, her family and friends prayed for her and shared their love and knowledge of Christ. Not only were they devastated by her illness and watching her suffer, but they also worried about her relationship with the Lord... for her very soul. Yet, just like the Lord, just like the Prodigal's father, they never gave up on her.

After her death, her family discovered messages Christina had recorded on her cell phone. Her words proclaimed her surrender, her repentance and acceptance of Christ as the authority in her life! What a gift of love and peace Christina's words gave her family! Now they have that priceless reassurance, knowing that they will be reunited with her for all eternity through Christ our Lord and Savior!

We all have wondered about the WHYS of this life. Her family and friends wondered *WHY* didn't the Lord heal Christina...*WHY* did Christina have to suffer *for SO LONG*? But the answer may be found here, Dear Ones...that God in His Mercy and Wisdom did not want Christina to die in a state of rebellion against His Authority. Jesus wanted her to be with Him for all eternity and *He was NOT going to let anything separate her from His Love and Grace!* (Romans 8:38-39)

For Jesus said, "And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those He has given Me, but that I should raise them to eternal life." (John 6:39 TLB)

Deacons' Den  
Debbie Puzar

*Audrey Santiago, Director of Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation. sends her thanks for your generous support for the work in Ukraine. The following letter is her latest update.*



ORPHAN  
ASSISTANCE  
FOUNDATION  
[www.transitionsoaf.org](http://www.transitionsoaf.org)

March 30, 2024

Dear Friends,

My head is still full of images of Odesa, and a big piece of my heart stayed behind in Ukraine, but I am back in the USA. I've taken a few days to process and am ready to share with you some of my impressions and news from my trip.

For starters, travel in and out of Ukraine has become very long and complicated. Going was easier because our trip began in Germany, and we had a nonstop flight from Orlando to Frankfurt. But even in Germany, in the space of one week, we stayed in three different airbnbs in three different cities and villages. Traveling between them involved a variety of buses and trains with lots of luggage to juggle.

The German leg of the trip was heart-warming. In Frankfurt, we were able to catch up with Hasan and Oskar, who we met as young refugees from Afghanistan in an Odesa orphanage many years ago. Both are now young adults and refugees in the Frankfurt area, and they are trying to figure out another new direction for their lives. They can't go back to Afghanistan, and now they can't go back to Ukraine, either. One is studying, and the other is trying to figure out a way to reunite with his Ukrainian wife and daughter. Being a refugee must be a terribly frightening and humbling experience, but both of these young men seem to take it in stride, although I can only imagine how lonely and alone they must feel at times. It was a joy to see them, and it's an honor to know them.



In Bad Arolsen, Germany, we spent time with our foster family who has decided to wait out the war in Germany. Their five children are adjusting to German schools and German life and are thriving under their care. House dad Misha's mom and dad have also come from Odesa to stay with them, so they have grown to a family of nine living in a small three bedroom apartment. When Michelle, my husband, and I sat around the table with them, it was a full table indeed! As we sat the first night, chatting and catching up, I realized that our conversations included five languages: Russian, Ukrainian, English, German, and even a bit of Spanish. Seriously though, the common language in that home was Love.

Misha was a pastor in Odesa before the war, and it seems that he has gathered a small flock of Ukrainian refugees in and around Bad Arolsen who are meeting for services every Sunday afternoon in a space donated by one of the churches in

the village. We spent some time in discussion with him concerning the direction this mission might go and how we might help.



Also in Bad Arolsen we visited with Tanya, one of our cottage residents in Odesa, who evacuated to Germany with her two little girls shortly after the war began. Her husband, Pasha, has been drafted into the Ukrainian Army and has been serving on one of the front lines. How difficult it is to be raising children alone in a strange country, now with the added worry of your husband's safety! Welcome to the world of so many Ukrainian women.



From Bad Arolsen, we moved on to the little village of Blankenrath where our "women's retreat" took place. House moms Larisa (who joined us from Odesa) and Tanya (house mom, whose home we had just visited in Bad Arolsen), another staff member, also Tanya, from Odesa who is currently living in Germany, went with Michelle and me to a Blankenrath airbnb for a long weekend of nothing but relaxation – no business, no problem-solving; just sleeping, eating, walking and talking to our hearts' content. We even tested our courage by walking across a wooden suspension bridge that was a tourist attraction in the area. This retreat was simply good for our souls! I am so grateful for this part of our trip because moving on to Odesa was next, and for me, that was the hardest, most emotionally charged part of the trip. Odesa is my home, and I knew that it would not be the same this time.



We flew into Chisinau, Moldova and, by the grace of God, a friend of ours from Odesa was dropping off a group of folks who were just leaving Odesa and he happily agreed to take us back to Odesa in his car, sparing us a bus ride. We arrived in Odesa under a cloak of darkness, and almost as soon as we settled into Michelle's apartment, the air raid sirens blared. Thus was our introduction to life as it now is in Odesa.

Odesa is the same, but it is different. I have never seen so many Ukrainian flags flying from buildings and homes. There are even numerous flags painted on the sides of buildings, as if to proclaim that, without any doubt, Odesa is Ukraine. My first walk in the center of the city where I always lived was sobering. I saw the results of previous hits. The cathedral has a big hole in it and the hotel at the port is an empty, burned out shell. Statues have been removed or covered over for safety, and windows are boarded, either because they have been blown out by nearby explosions or for preventative measures. Stores and restaurants are open, but prices have risen astronomically. I was shocked by how much. I wonder how the average Ukrainian can make ends meet in such an economy. Air raid sirens blared every day, several times a day. I learned not to stop what I was doing, but to stay aware for the sound of a drone or missile overhead. On my second full day in Odesa, I was in a taxi, heading for our transition homes in the north of the city. The sirens blared and the driver, seemingly unfazed, just kept driving. Next we heard a huge explosion. The driver just kept on driving. Soon after, there was another explosion. Then nothing. We continued on to our meeting, our mood a bit subdued, our minds silently asking the questions, *what, where?*

We learned later that a residential building in the south of the city, near where I used to visit orphans in the summer, was hit by a Russian ballistic missile. As rescue workers came on the scene, Russia hit again with another missile on the same spot. Many lives were lost that day, and many others were injured. The next day was declared a city day of mourning.

Later that night, as I lay in a state of half-sleep, I heard a motorcycle, but oddly, it seemed to be in the sky. Shortly after, there was a distant explosion that my sleepy brain told me was just thunder. I fell into sleep then and slept through the night. In the morning, I learned that it was a drone. It had flown over us, and either hit or was shot down elsewhere.

And so it is. When there are sirens, there are drones or missiles somewhere, and we don't always know where. Drones and missiles can fly anytime, anywhere. And they can fall anytime, anywhere. I have never been afraid to live in Odesa, and I was not afraid this time either. I did feel a tension and uncertainty that never seemed to go away. That felt so misplaced because Odesa is my happy place. Shortly after I left to come home, Russia bombed power stations and the country was again without power. These power infrastructure attacks continue. I stayed for two weeks. Others have been there for two years and counting, and this is their new reality.

While in Odesa, we met all our goals and I came home with a list of new ideas and things to work towards, as is always the case. This mission has never been "accomplished"; it has always been evolving. We had our hard conversations that needed to be done in person, and I am more than grateful that we could meet face-to-face, sit in the same space, and share meals and hugs.

We spent lots of time with our foster family in Odessa, getting to know the new girls and their brother who came to stay just over a year ago. They are a cohesive family; it is hard to detect that Larisa and Sergei are not their natural parents. We spent time in a café with the couple who coordinate the food bags for our Pishana families and pensioners. We visited with a young couple, one of our orphans and his wife, who live in one of our cottages and who now help with the Pishana ministry. And we got to see Vlad, who I met in 2008 as a fourteen-year-old in Orphanage #4. We had dinner together and shared old times. Vlad is the last of my first group of kids left in Odesa. He hasn't changed. The years just melted away.



Happily, I also had time this trip for connecting with the friends who are my family in Odesa. They are the ones who make Odesa feel like home to me. Time with them is priceless. When we part at the end of a trip, we never say goodbye. We set a target date to meet again and then say, "See you next time!" The thought of there not being a next time is unfathomable.



Much of my visit felt normal and just like old times, and then I would see a broken building, we would have to pass through a checkpoint on the roads, I would hear the newest air raid siren, and I would be jolted back into the reality that Ukraine is a country at war and Odesa is under attack. I had a conversation with one of my taxi drivers on one of my last days in Odesa. He asked where I was from, and when I replied that I lived in America, he said that I was very brave to come to Odesa in wartime. I seriously wanted to scoff. Me, brave? No way! *He* is brave. Every Ukrainian citizen, no matter if they are staying in Ukraine or living elsewhere, is brave. Whether they are fighting in the army, or working at a job, or volunteering to support their army, or raising a family, or caring for the infirm and pensioners, they are the brave ones. Their spirits do not waiver, their goals remain firm. I am in admiration of each and every one.

Our trip home was long and grueling. We took a bus from the Odesa city center back to Chisinau. If one could drive straight through, the trip would be about three hours. However, we needed to stop at the border, disembark, collect our bags from under the bus, and stand in a line to have every piece our luggage thoroughly searched. We needed go through two different passport controls, one leaving Ukraine and another entering Moldova. We spent three hours at the border inching our way through. A three hour trip easily became six. We spent that night in Chisinau, and then boarded a flight to Frankfurt with a connection in Warsaw. Our flight to Warsaw was late. We made it to our connection by a hair. Our checked bag didn't make it. We spent another night in Frankfurt and came home on a nonstop flight to Orlando. At MCO, as we left the plane behind and walked around a corner in the corridor leading us to passport control, we saw a big sign reading, *Welcome to the USA!* I kind of wanted to kneel down and kiss the ground. It had been a long trip! PS – our bag caught up to us several days later with stories all its own.

This letter has grown long. I hope you are still reading because now, I simply want to say thank you again for walking this walk with me, for caring and for sharing, and for keeping our Ukrainian friends in your hearts and prayers. I will end with the greeting that I learned to say on my first Easter in Odesa so many years ago and with which I've always ended my Easter letters to you:

*Христос Воскрес! Воістину воскрес!  
(Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!)*

*Happy Easter one and all!*

With gratitude and love,  
Audrey

***Donation Information***

*Checks may be written to:*


***Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation, Inc.***

*541 Evening Sky Drive  
Oviedo, FL 32765*

*-or-*

*3530 Diamond Leaf Lane  
Oviedo, FL 32765*

*Online options to donate can be found on our website: [www.transitionsoaf.org](http://www.transitionsoaf.org)*



**Name TAGS**


Before you enter the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, please get your name tag and scan it. If you don't have a name tag, please let someone at the visitor table know so they can request one. If you are visiting, please fill out a form located at the visitor table. Scanning all name tags help us to keep an accurate count of attendance.

Thank you!

## Bible Quiz


What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

A. Nile  
B. Yangtze  
C. Jordan  
D. Tigris  
E. Ganges  
F. Euphrates



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14)

# PUZZLE



## UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

*Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.*

- flower, stem, bee, leaf \_ ( ) \_
- pink, red, yellow, blue \_ \_ ( ) \_
- mother, sister, brother, aunt \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_ \_ \_
- purple, dress, skirt, blouse \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) ( ) \_
- necklace, ring, bracelet, braid \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_
- diamond, emerald, heart, ruby \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_
- orange, cherry, potato, kiwi \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_
- my, our, she, your \_ ( ) \_ \_
- faith, family, love, hope \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_
- sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_ \_ \_
- cookie, cake, pie, sandwich \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_
- silver, white, gold, bronze \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ( ) \_

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a g \_ \_ \_ \_ and qu \_ \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ , which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

# Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

**Grassy area behind a house**

**Blooms that have petals**

**Spring precipitation**

**Puffy and white in the sky**

**Soil**

**Lawn**

**Must be weeded and tended**

**Tiptoe through these**

**Baby sheep**

**We need food and this**

**God made this from nothing**

**A sign of God's promise**

**These, in April, bring May flowers**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29				
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

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	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73										

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, snow, showers; "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."





## COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS - Here's How to Help



Winter Park Presbyterian Church has been involved in a feeding ministry even before the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless was created in 1987. We serve on the 1st Friday of each month. If you would like to donate your time to prepare the food during the week before the 1st Friday, please review the information below and contact the Team Leader listed. If you would like to serve, please sign up on the Coalition serving list posted in the hallway near the office, or contact Anna Caparis at 707-889-4768/[annafromal@yahoo.com](mailto:annafromal@yahoo.com).

What	When
<b>Bake</b> brownies / Anna Caparis 707-889-4768	Wed 5/1 9:00-11:00 AM
<b>Prepare</b> meal / Anna Caparis 707-889-4768	Thurs 5/2 9:30-11:30 AM
<b>Bag</b> brownies / Wendy Jamison 407-739-7858	Fri 5/3 9:00-10:00 AM
<b>Donate</b> reading materials: Magazines for men, women, & children (news, cars, sports, National Geographic, religious magazines/booklets, paperback books)	<b>All month:</b> Place in <b>COALITION</b> giant storage box in Fellowship Hall.
<b>Prepare</b> to transport: Gather supplies, load food & supplies into bus Anna Caparis 707-889-4768	Fri 5/3 3:30-4:00 PM
<b>Serve</b> the Meal. Join us in the WPPC kitchen for departure to Coalition at 4:00 PM and return by 7:00PM. Volunteers please wear closed-toed shoes; it is a violation of health code to wear flip-flops. Please sign up in office hallway <u>and</u> call Anna Caparis (707-889-4768) by the Wednesday before if you would like	Fri 5/3 4:00-7:00 PM <b>NOTE:</b> The church bus is reserved for this function.
<b>Cleanup kitchen:</b> Wash, sanitize items used; store supplies	Fri 5/3 7:00-7:30 PM
<b>Financial Donation:</b> Make check out to WPPC; note on the memo line "Coalition for the Homeless" - mail to WPPC or bring to the church office.	<b>Anytime</b>

### HOMELESS COALITION TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Each month about 40 devoted WPPC volunteers handle the many tasks to provide and serve a wonderful meal to our guests at the Coalition.

We are in need of additional volunteers for various projects, and backup volunteers when regulars must be absent.

**Any of the above gifts, or your time, are so appreciated!**

**To help in any way, please contact: Anna Caparis  
707-889-4768 or [annafromal@yahoo.com](mailto:annafromal@yahoo.com)**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<u>1</u> Nancy Appich Shaheed Mohammed Marna Williams	<u>2</u> Marianna LaRue Lori Pantoliano	<u>3</u> Mary Ferguson	<u>4</u> Lee Corbett Dave Rea
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Lily Boyle Norlin Ham	<u>9</u> Dan Kittinger	<u>10</u> Susan Davis Lindsay Seel Woody Storey	<u>11</u> Jodi Tassos
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Beverly Salmon	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Almeda Dean	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> Fred Murray	<u>20</u> Phil Ettinger Scott Frazier	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Joann Robertson	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Griffin Seel	<u>25</u> Beverly Carpenter
<u>26</u> Ryan Yadav	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> Crystal Fern	<u>29</u> Alan Davis	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> Stephen Boyle Sue Howard Margie Meliza	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> Matt Straub	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Frances Swope	<u>7</u> Barbara dePaula	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> Steve House Carolyn Wolf	<u>10</u> Theresa Coker	<u>11</u> Janet Barnes	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Bill Duncan Mariya Lampe	<u>15</u> Abbie Lampe
<u>16</u> Mary Rogers	<u>17</u> Nancy Glancy Eric Schieber Donna Thompson	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Fern Barnard	<u>22</u> Enid Marr
<u>23</u> Jo Russell	<u>24</u> Richard Ferguson	<u>25</u> Patrick Boyle	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Dan Meadors Sue Rudolph	<u>28</u> James Wolf Tom Woodward	<u>29</u> Denise Ferguson
<u>30</u> Mitch Bargar Don Paulsen						



The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor  
 The Rev. Dr. James A. Capps, Senior Adult Ministry Coordinator  
 Justin Chase, Director of Music  
 Penny Walsh, Organist  
 Sandra Shafer, Pianist  
 Scott Beck, Director of Handbells  
 Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant  
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant  
 Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant  
 Wendy Stafford, Health Care Coordinator  
 Nicole Fye, Director of Preschool Programs  
 Adam Davies, Sexton

### SESSION

#### 2024

Mike Galyean  
 John Gehrig  
 Jayne Leach  
 Audrey Santiago  
 Sara Van Arsdel

#### 2025

Theresa Coker  
 Mary Ferguson  
 Cathy House  
 Glenn Riccio  
 Ron Thompson

#### 2026

Syd Davis  
 Betty Johnston  
 Shaheed Mohammed  
 Nelson Roe

### DIACONATE

#### 2024

Lisa Dreasher  
 Jerry Fitzgerald  
 Nancy Galyean  
 Andy Riccio

#### 2025

Meg Baldwin  
 Anna Caparis  
 Lynne McKnight  
 Debbie Pauzar  
 Deborah Roberts

#### 2026

Ernestine Beattie  
 Sue Howard

### MISSIONARIES

Mark Hare & Jenny Bent - Costa Rica  
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/> or contact Cindy Mitchum at [cindym@winppc.org](mailto:cindym@winppc.org) or 407-647-1467.