



Westminster

Presbyterian Church

ZEPHYRS

SUMMER 2026



WISDOM FOR ORDINARY TIME

Pastor Rob McClellan

This summer marks the beginning of a new sermon series, “Wisdom for Ordinary Time.” Notice, it doesn’t say ordinary times. Ordinary time (singular) refers to the time outside particularly holy seasons in the church (liturgical) calendar.

The holy seasons, Advent and Lent, and even more the biggest holy days, Christmas and Easter, get a lot of attention in the church. However, much of the calendar, just like much of life, belongs to the territory of the ordinary. Most of life isn’t witnessing a divine birth or an ungodly crucifixion. Most of life is spent waiting in line, (cont.)

SUMMER INTENTIONS

Associate Pastor Bethany Nelson

I chuckled to myself when I saw that Rob wrote about “ordinary time,” because I was just thinking that this summer will perhaps be my most “ordinary” in several years. Three summers ago, Rob was on sabbatical. Two summers ago, I was on sabbatical. Then, last summer, our family was focused on Ben’s transition to college. Whew ... recent summers have been anything but ordinary!

Knowing that this summer might be more ordinary, I have been thinking about how I will approach this season with intentionality. Summer tends to have a slightly different pace than (cont.)



WISDOM FOR ORDINARY TIME

Continued...

laboring away, learning new things in sometimes painfully incremental ways. Life is a lot more like learning a new language than making a great speech.

“Wisdom for Ordinary Time” will be about finding out what our faith has to say about how to navigate most of life, the everyday realities we inhabit. The Sundays I preach will address the following themes:

- Choosing Trust - Adopting a Disposition of Trust Over Fear
- Time & Place – Learning to See the Realities of Life as Seasonal
- Unfairness – Navigating Life When it Doesn’t Go the Way it Should
- Wisdom not Control– Asking to Learn and Grow Rather Than Be in Charge
- The Quiet Way – The Work of Faith Behind the Scenes
- A Strong Foundation – Building a Basis for Our Life

The series will draw on Wisdom literature from the scriptures as well as the Psalms. While the topics are set, the sermons are not. If you have questions, particularly related to the above themes, don’t hesitate to share them with me. Maybe your question will shape a sermon.

Consider the series an invitation for you to build your own library of wisdom for ordinary times. What are those time-tested pieces of understanding that have served you well or that you have admired as others. Put together your own list, maybe invite a group to do so and get together to share. Even just begin the process by starting to catalogue the questions you frequently encounter.

I look forward to sharing ordinary time with you.

God’s Peace,

Rob

SUMMER INTENTIONS

Continued...

other times of the year, and I want to take advantage of that. I share some of my current intentions here with the hope that it might inspire some of your own.

1. *Avoid the need to fill in all the empty calendar spaces.*
Some events and activities take a break in the summer, or at least happen less frequently. The “do-er” in me wants to fill in that time with something else. I love to be productive! But this summer, I want to be OK with doing less. Time just to be is important. Are you finding balance in your schedule?
2. *Spend time outside in God’s creation.*
We are blessed to live in a beautiful place. I want to take advantage of that. Where is a place of peace for you?
3. *Serve.*
In addition to serving at Westminster, where else might I offer some of my time and energy this summer? Or to whom? I will most likely work some shifts at the SF Marin Food Bank, though there are many organizations doing great work in Marin. What topic/issue/organization is important to you?
4. *Play more music.*
It’s no secret to anyone who knows me that I love to make music. Too often, though, other things take priority. I just noticed that the keyboard at my house has a layer of dust on it. That simply won’t do! I want to make the time this summer for things that bring me joy. What brings you joy?

This list is still in the brainstorming phase, but it gives you an idea of some of my hopes and dreams for the next few months. What is on your list? How will you make what is on your list a priority? I look forward to hearing how your “ordinary” summer is anything but ordinary!

Blessings,

Bethany



WE'RE CHANGING WHAT WE TEACH (SORT OF)

Jeff Shankle | Director of Youth Ministry

Seven or eight years ago, Westminster's youth ministry set out to build something intentional. We developed a curriculum not around trends or entertainment, but around deeper questions: What does it mean to follow Jesus as a young person today? What practices, conversations, and relationships help faith become rooted rather than temporary? And what maybe most importantly, what does that look like specifically to Westminster and Marin County?

That curriculum has served us well. Some of the middle school students we had in mind when we first created it are now graduating college, serving in leadership, asking thoughtful questions, and carrying their faith into adulthood. We are deeply grateful for that.

But ministry lives in the present tense. And the present has changed, as it always does. When we first developed our curriculum, most of our students were Gen Z. Today, we are increasingly ministering to Generation Alpha. The cultural landscape has changed. AI is ubiquitous now. We live in a post-COVID world. We recognize how interconnected we are.

Our students are deeply thoughtful, emotionally perceptive, justice-aware, and spiritually curious. They are asking honest questions about identity, belonging, mental health, purpose, and hope. They want authenticity. Maybe you heard of people being "spiritual but not religious," but more young people are interested in religion as something that lasts beyond the latest internet trend.

Because of all this, Westminster's youth ministry will begin a process this year of revisiting and updating our curriculum for the next generation of students. Rather than simply rewriting things internally, we want this to be a collaborative process shaped by the wisdom and experiences of our church community. Over the coming months, we will begin convening a variety of listening groups and conversations, including parents of children of all ages, our youth themselves, Westminster parents whose students have already graduated, and of course the requisite committees and staff.

One of the most important questions we want to explore is simple: What has been the long-term impact of Westminster's youth ministry? As students grow into adulthood, what parts of their faith formation have stayed with them? What helped? What did not? What are the practices that will facilitate spiritual vitality in the next 7-8 years?

Some things will not change. Relationships will still matter more than anything. Scripture will still anchor us. Worship, prayer, service, conversation, and community will remain central to who we are.

But faithful ministry requires attentiveness. The things students are carrying in 2026 are not the same as what students carried in 2018. Our calling is not simply to repeat what worked before, but to faithfully walk alongside the young people God has entrusted to us now.

If you have thoughts, experiences, hopes, concerns, or ideas you would like to contribute to this process, please feel free to reach out and be part of the conversation.



FROM WPC'S MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rita Lilly

What a joy to be Westminster's new Music Director!

Since my start in January, my family and I have been welcomed with open arms from everyone in the congregation. I feel so respected and cherished in this community.

It is an absolute joy to make music every Thursday night and Sunday mornings with Patty and our wonderful choir! It takes dedication and some work, but we have a lot of fun every week. There is so much talent here. I plan to tap into all of you that wish to express yourself musically in our community and encourage you to play your instrument, join the choir, or just sing with me!

Perhaps most evident to me is how blessed this congregation is to have such exceptional leadership from Pastors Rob and Bethany! They are so gifted and compassionate about what they do. Working and planning worship with them does not feel like work at all, but a collaborative labor of love. It is very inspiring. I'm looking forward to getting to know our youth director, Jeff, more as well as our church staff and all of you.

Very honestly, I was not seeking a new music director position when I left my previous church, but when I met Rob, Bethany, the search committee and then members of the choir, it was clear to me that I could see myself in this lovely community. Thank you for a wonderful start to my music leadership here at WPC. I hope that this is a position I will hold for many years to come.

NEW OFFICERS BEGIN SERVING

We recently ordained and installed our new church officers. We thank you for your service! If you would like to know more about serving as an Elder or Deacon, see Bethany or Rob. For a list of all our current Elders and Deacons, go to the "About Us" page on the church website (wpctiburon.org).

We also give thanks for our outgoing officers who have completed their terms. We appreciate you!

INCOMING OFFICERS:

Elders

Chris Foskett
Kaz Keller
Karen Meezan
Ellie Rodenbeck

Deacons

Bev Alexander
Marybeth Bond-Sheppard
Heather Graves
Greg Kennett
Deb Saltzman
Vicky Young

OUTGOING OFFICERS:

Elders

Sam Adkins
Valerie Harrison
Bill Hasler
Streeter Holt

Deacons

Linden Berry
Amie Boswell-Kennett
Gary Carlston
Jerry Eaton

WESTMINSTER EVENTS CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO THOUGHTFUL, TIMELY CONVERSATIONS

By Lucy Carrico, Westminster Events Committee Chair



Westminster Events held a very engaging community conversation on March 8, *The Future of Public Health*, featuring Dr. Lisa Santora, Marin County's Public Health Officer, in dialogue with longtime civic and public health leader Teri Dowling. This marked our first partnership with the Outdoor Art Club of Mill Valley, continuing our commitment to hosting thoughtful, timely conversations that serve both Westminster Presbyterian Church and the wider Marin community. We had a terrific turnout, with close to 100 attendees.

Dr. Santora was thoughtful in her responses to the many questions posed by the moderator and the audience, including: What is public health? What lessons were learned from COVID? What is the current guidance on childhood vaccines? And what is the current state of affairs with the CDC and mental health? The conversation highlighted how Dr. Santora and Marin County's public health department are working with local agencies to adapt, collaborate, and plan for what lies ahead.

Dr. Santora shared lessons learned, current priorities, and ways we can all help build a healthier, more resilient community. The discussion was followed by an informative reception showcasing six Action Partners, where attendees could learn more about resources available in Marin, connect with one another, and continue asking questions of Dr. Santora.

Action Partners included:

- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness – Marin Chapter)
- Live Well Mill Valley – a model for sustainable living
- LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors)
- LITA (Love Is the Answer) – volunteers helping seniors with social isolation
- CARE (Creating a Resilient Environment)
- MCHHS (Marin County Health and Human Services)

Those in attendance came away with a renewed sense of optimism for our county, feeling grateful to have such a committed and knowledgeable public servant leading public health efforts in Marin. Our next event will take place in the fall—stay tuned! In the meantime, we welcome your ideas. Please reach out if you have suggestions for timely topics, engaging speakers, or if you would like to learn more about getting involved.

Westminster Events remains committed to creating respectful, inclusive forums on topics that matter to Marin. Through gatherings like these, we continue to learn, connect, and grow as a community. www.westmiserenterevents.org



WESTMINSTER'S LIBRARY

Have you taken a moment to browse our Westminster library? Located at the top of the stairs, it is there for you to use! The library operates on the honor system ... simply take whatever books you want to read and then return them when you are done.

Our Spiritual Life Committee will be adding two great collections this summer. First will be all the books that the Spiritual Book Group has read over the last several years. (This is a current collection that will be updated.) Second are the books read by our Sober Spirituality discussion group. These collections will be labeled. We simply ask if you borrow one of these books, you return it to the collection, and not to the main shelves.



If you are interested in joining either of these groups, reach out to Coral Kisseberth or Steffen Bartschat for the Spiritual Book Group and Rev. Brook Scott for the Sober Spirituality Group.

Here are the books that will be added to the library this summer:

Spiritual Book Group collection

- *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr
- *Walking in Wonder: Eternal Wisdom for a Modern World* by John O'Donohue
- *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most* by Marcus Borg
- *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *Eye of the Heart: A Spiritual Journey into the Imaginal Realm* by Cynthia Bourgeault
- *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World* by John Philip Newell
- *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu
- *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pema Chödrön
- *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount* by Richard Rohr
- *Deep and Simple: A Spiritual Path for Modern Times* by Bo Lozoff
- *No Death, No Fear: Comforting Wisdom for Life* by Thich Nhat Hanh
- *Wild Mercy* by Mirabai Starr
- *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality* by J. Philip Newell
- *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan
- *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith* by Marcus Borg
- *Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation* by Martin Laird

Sober Spirituality Collection

- *Sober Spirituality: The Joy of a Mindful Relationship with Alcohol* by Eric Jean Warde
- *This Naked Mind: Find Freedom, Discover Happiness & Change Your Life* by Annie Grace
- *Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* by Richard Rohr
- *Divine Therapy & Addiction: Centering Prayer and the Twelve Steps* by Thomas Keating
- *Addiction and Grace: Love and Spirituality in the Healing of Addictions* by Gerald G. May, M.D.
- *Recovery, the 12 Steps and Jewish Spirituality: Reclaiming Hope, Courage & Wholeness* by Rabbi Paul Steinberg

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SUMMER UPDATE

By Elke Bray, B&G Co-Chair



We recently completed the MMWD Back-Flow Preventer project, which was required to bring our fire suppression water line into compliance with County regulations. This significant week-long project involved excavation of a portion of the grassy knoll near the church entry sign and resulted in the installation of a rather large above-ground back-flow/fire hydrant assembly. While the new equipment is certainly noticeable, we are already working on a landscaping plan to help soften the appearance of the area and reduce the visibility of the assembly.

In addition to ongoing maintenance and repair work, the committee is also beginning to explore a possible Sanctuary “Refresh” project. This effort would bundle together a number of needed improvements to our more than 30-year-old sanctuary interior, including flooring repair, pew repair and cleaning, fresh paint, as well as anticipated larger projects such as and sound system/AV upgrades and furnace replacement. We look forward to sharing more information about this exciting endeavor in the months ahead. If you have questions, ideas, or suggestions related to Building & Grounds projects, please feel free to reach out to Elke Bray, Rob, Bethany or any member of the B&G Committee.

SAVE THE DATES!

Our committees have planned some wonderful events and activities this summer. Keep an eye on the eNews for up-to-date details. Here are a few things currently in the works.

Interested in joining a Westminster committee? See Rob or Bethany to get plugged in.

Sunday, June 28

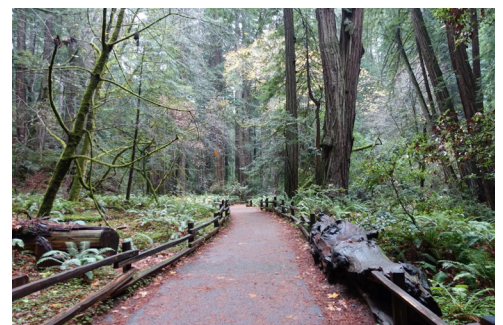
The Community Service Committee will host a special service of prayer, sharing, and song for those concerned about what is happening to immigrants in our country. There will be time to learn about ways to get involved and engage constructively and peacefully.

Tuesday, July 14

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to a Westminster game night! Bring your favorite game to share, or come play a favorite of someone else.

Sunday, August 30

The Spiritual Life Committee hosts an afternoon at serene Camp Alice Eastwood, once the main entrance to Muir Woods National Monument. As we say goodbye to summer and welcome the fall, we will have discussion and activities for all ages, including a nature walk in Muir Woods led by NPS volunteer Steffen Bartschat.



NEW CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE SERIES ON WPC PODCAST

The church's podcast "WPC Daily Dose" has a new weekly offering: Contemplative Practice for Soulful Living. Each Friday, an episode drops that includes a brief prompt for a contemplative practice. These offerings will help you build a repertoire of practices that help you stay grounded, feel more connected to God, and able to move through the



world with greater peace. It's great to subscribe to the podcast so that you can receive these practices throughout the summer while you may be traveling. You can find "WPC Daily Dose" wherever you get your podcasts. While you're there, consider subscribing to the church's other podcast "WPC Tiburon." There you will find the weekly worship services.