

WINTER  
JANUARY  
2019



# WESTMINSTER CONNECTIONS

LOVE GOD, MAKE FRIENDS, SERVE OTHERS

## WORSHIP WITH US

9:05 - Contemporary

11:05 - Traditional

*Communion is offered the first  
Sunday of each month*

THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:

**A WORD FROM YOUR  
PASTOR**

**EMPLOYEE AND MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHTS**

**EVENT CALENDAR**

**PHOTOS AND MORE...**

# A letter from our pastor

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*Jeff Powers*

Sometimes pastors of high achievement have buildings named after them. Oral Roberts actually got a whole University named after him. I have now entered the pantheon of such appreciated clergy. Recently, I had something named after me. Not a building. Not a University. It was a lizard.

Miles Kelly and his friends had captured a lizard so they could bring him to the "Blessing of the Animals Service." I am not sure how blessed the Lizard felt. When I bless an animal I use their name - "Bless O Lord this pet, fluffy..."

So I needed the Lizard's name. When I asked the kids the lizard's name there was an awkward pause. They caught the lizard, they housed him in a Tupperware dish with air-holes (I checked) and they decorated his home with leaves and twigs. But they forgot to name him. So I asked again "what is the Lizards name?" Miles Kelly spoke up quickly. "His name is Jeff!"

What an honor. And even though it is not a building or even a room in a building, it was special. I have been Miles' pastor for eight years now. I know he was actually teasing me. But how wonderful it is to have a child in church who is so comfortable with his pastor that he would be willing to do that.

The Lizard's name is Jeff. And I feel truly blessed.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Jeff Powers



*Photo by Suzi Byrd: Rev. Jeff Powers blessing Treson and Creneshia Allen's dog.*

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



### *Kasi Cunningham* *Director of Program Ministries*

Kasi and her husband, Andy met in seminary in Wilmore, KY and have been married for 15 years. Andy is the senior pastor at Chapewood UMC's Fair Haven campus and Kasi is the Director of Program Ministries here at Westminster. They have two children, Ryvers, 9 and Ella, 8. We asked her a few questions to help us get to know her better. Here is what she said:

#### **What do I like best about my job?**

I love the freedom I have to be creative and implement studies and events that will help people of all ages grow in their walk with Christ along with building community in our church. I love getting to know these families and their children. I love getting to work with people who are just as happy to be here as I am. I have really enjoyed getting to teach Bible studies throughout the week, and the relationships I have built in those studies.

#### **What was the best vacation you ever had?**

Andy and I went on our honeymoon to Australia. It was a country I had always wanted to go to. Tons of great memories.

#### **What is your favorite season? Why?**

Spring. I like it to be warm outside. I do not like the cold. I love green and flowers.

#### **What words of wisdom do you try to live by?**

I always keep this scripture in mind. "He who began a good work in me will bring it to completion in Christ Jesus." Phil 1:6. I know that God is always with me and He is working in me and in spite of me at times, but He is never giving up on me.

*"God is calling this congregation to be Servants of God's people."*

*~Mary & Michael Perkins*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Michael & Mary Perkins*

Michael and Mary have been married 34 years this year and have one daughter, Kelsey. They have been members of Westminster for about 2 1/2 years. They both enjoys reading and gardening. Mary's passion is her paper crafts and Michael's hobbies include home projects.



Michael volunteers every Monday and Wednesday in the church office and is our first responder to the security alarm because they live so close. He is also the current WUMC representative for our CCSC mission. They both usher each month and Mary has just begun facilitating a small group study for one of our new classes.

### **Tell me about a time when you felt especially proud of some members or leaders of your congregation?**

First thing that comes to mind is the Kelly family, Mike and Kristen and their gift and commitment to fostering children. It takes very special people to step up and make this kind of commitment. They inspire the rest of us to do more. Next up is this congregations response to crisis big or small, in-house or out. There's not one incident; it's all of them.

**Are you happy to be here? Why did you join this congregation instead of another one?** Some people choose based on size, others on style (traditional and/or contemporary ), others on the Pastors. We give high marks on all the above, but first and foremost are the people we've come to know. We have a whole new family of friends in the congregation and office and have never experienced this kind of fellowship at a church.

**How has being part of this congregation helped you and members of your family grow in faith?** The various bible studies have certainly contributed, but the one that has had the most impact on Michael is the Men's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. They have a core group and have gotten to know each other, shared life's experiences and grown closer. All these guys have had a big influence on him.

Mary grew up in a different faith that she describes as rule focused. Like Michael said, the studies are formative but the personal relationships that Westminster fosters are incredible. This environment is helping her develop a more personal relationship with Christ.

**What have you especially valued about your pastors and other congregational staff?** As an office volunteer and exposure to the day-to-day, Michael has a tremendous appreciation now of what it takes to make a church work week in and week out. The work and preparation for each week is eye opening. The music and sermons alone which we take for granted, take a lot of time and talent and that's before we talk about the pastoral care by Jeff and Suzi that we would venture most members never hear about. Throw in the administrative requirements to run an office, constant communication material, and the Bible study programs and you begin to understand why we used the word 'tremendous' when we began this paragraph. Mary appreciates the focus on God's calling for Westminster. Many people don't realize how much time the staff spends in prayer and studies focused on the Holy Spirit's will for us.



# WINTER CALENDAR



## JANUARY

- 1 New Years Day
- 10 WOW - Theology and Science
- 16 ALPHA Wednesday night begins at 5:45 pm
- 19 Harvey Work Day  
Mother Daughter Paint night  
Father Son Bowling Night
- 20 ALPHA Sunday night begins at 6:00 pm

## FEBRUARY

- 3 Super Bowl
- 7 WOW - BUNKO at Selina Stanfords
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Tanglewood MS Luncheon
- 16 Harvey Work Day  
Movie Night on the Lawn (TBD)
- 18 President's Day
- 21 Men's Night Out - Escape Room



## MARCH

- 6 Ash Wednesday Services  
*Come & Go 7-8 am & 12-1 pm*  
*Evening at 6:30pm*
- 7 WOW Thursday Morning
- 10 Daylight Savings Begins
- 11-15 Spring Break (HISD)
- 17 Saint Patrick's Day





# MISSIONS

Local Mission Team Chair:  
Michael Perkins

CCSC Liason:  
John Reynolds

## How Can I Help Serve Others?



### TANGLEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCHEONS

Pastor Suzi Byrd has put together a program to help Tanglewood Teachers, Staff and Administration come together to get to know each other, discuss their students and be in fellowship with one another. Our volunteer's help serve and clean up.



### TEAM RESTORATION - REBUILD HOUSTON

It's been over a year after Harvey hit and rebuilding efforts are still greatly needed in our community's. One a month our volunteers and the Restoration Team get together to help those in need.

Go to our website to sign up!

If you'd like to help, contact Pastor Suzi Byrd at [sbyrd@wumc.com](mailto:sbyrd@wumc.com)

## WESTMINSTER IS GROWING

### 2018 NEW MEMBERS:

We had 13 new families join Westminster either as a transfer from another church or Profession of Faith.

### BAPTISMS:

We had 10 Baptisms in 2018 here at Westminster. 8 were infants and 2 were adults.



# WAYS TO GIVE

## 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

During the month of October 2018 our congregation spent time in reflection and prayer as to how we can serve our church by means of the resources the Lord has given us. Our God is an extravagant God, and we have all been blessed throughout life. In all of this, no blessing exceeds that of the grace which extends to each of us by way of the cross of Jesus Christ.

When each of us became a part of Westminster United Methodist Church, we promised to support the congregation with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Once again Westminster excels at generosity. Thank you for being such a generous congregation!

### UPDATE:

We had our best-ever Consecration Sunday on October 28th, 2018.

The results so far are as follows:

- 50 pledges received for \$608,153
- Includes 10 new pledges for \$37,400
- 18 Increased pledges - for an additional \$53,412
- Total pledges for 2018 were \$643,150.



## MAKING A WAY FOR MINISTRY

FOR MINISTRY

Matthew 7:24-27

## 2019 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

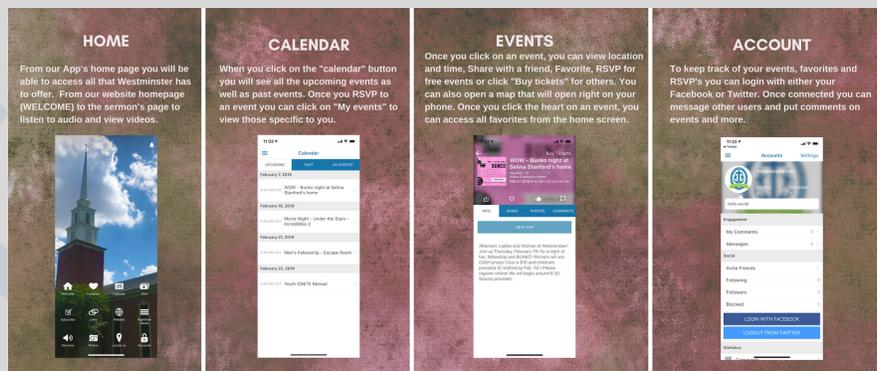
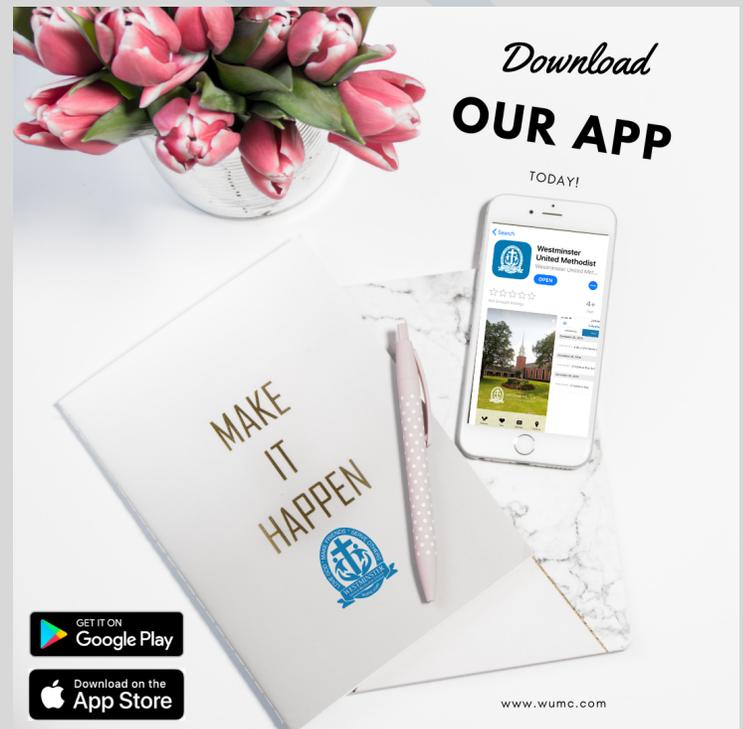
Our capital campaign **"Making a Way for Ministry"** is a way of honoring our past (the people who God called to Make a Way) and bringing new energy and commitment to our future together (the current members Making a Way). The ministries of our church are a blessing to both our church today and families outside our congregation.

This campaign is about being prepared. We are building a foundation to be able to handle the rain, floods and wind.

# Communication Circle

Westminster has an App! You can download it from the Apple or Google Play store. Once you download it, you will be able to:

- Give
- See Current Events
- Receive updates about WUMC
- Listen to Sermons
- RSVP to Events



## Want to Donate?

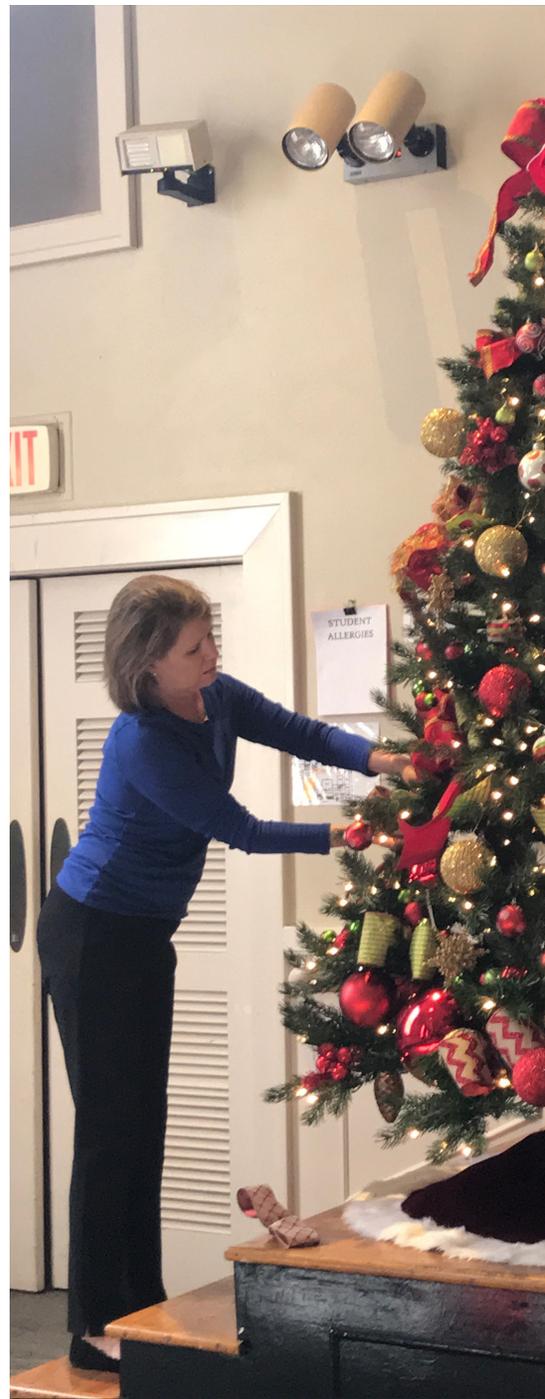
Drop your items off at Church Office during office hours.

(Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm) CCSC Picks up monthly from our location.

The Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is a community-based non-profit organization serving the inner city Houston community. CCSC provides a caring and valuable service to Houston's people on low and fixed income. Westminster supports CCSC through gifts and volunteers. You can help by dropping donations off at anytime to the church office. CCSC sends a representative to pick up each month.





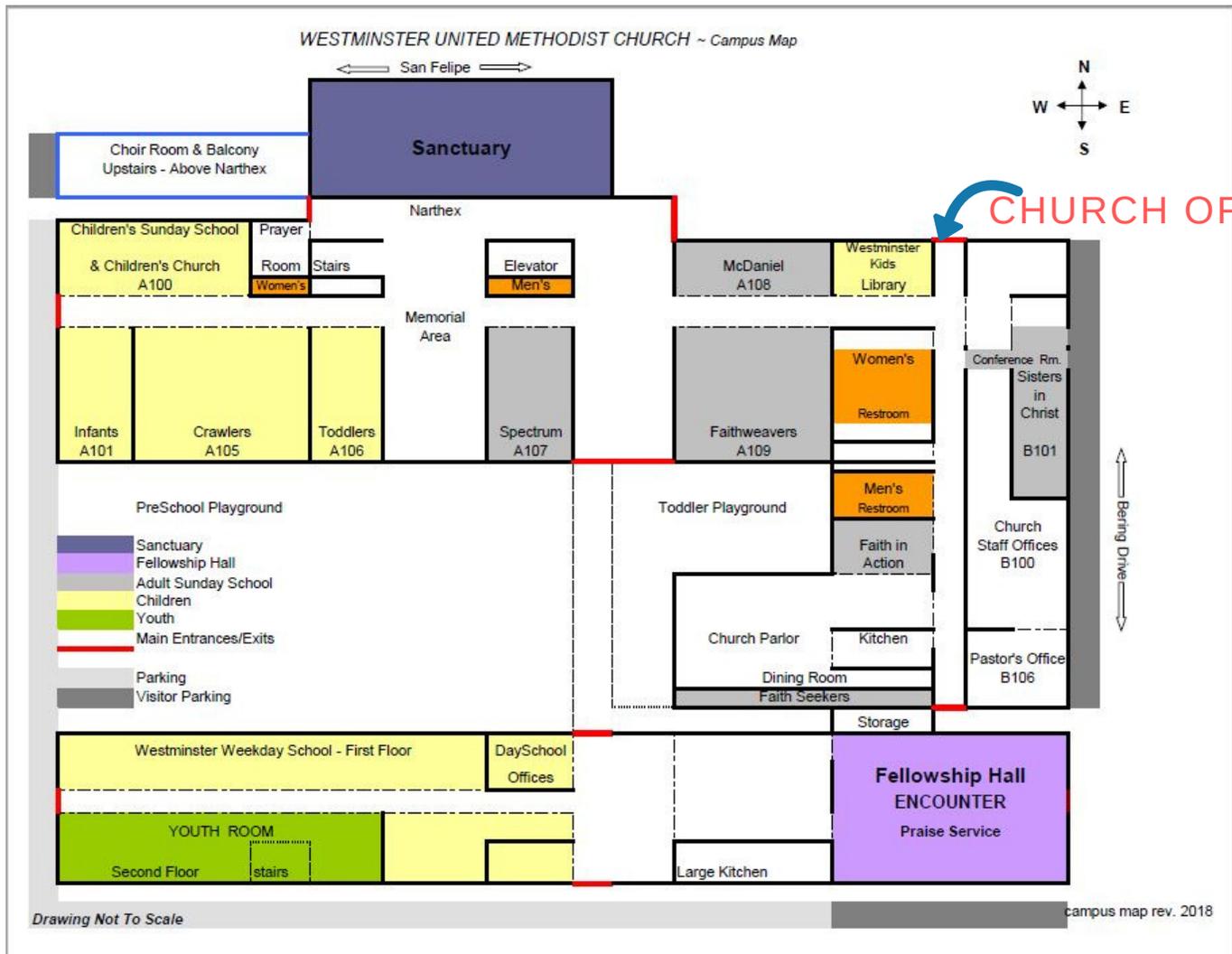


# WHERE TO GO?



See designated parking maps located around our campus

## FACILITY INFORMATION



Need help finding your way around Westminster's campus? Hopefully this helps. You can also scan this QR code to get the map on your phone.



# WHAT IS ALPHA?...

Happy New Year!!!! I am so excited about 2019 and what God is going to do here at Westminster. You are going to hear me say in-reach and outreach a lot this year. The goal is to not only minister to those in our church, but to reach those outside our walls. This isn't easy to do, and we are going to rejoice over one person at a time.

This Spring I am setting the ground work for that by offering a class called Alpha. This class is perfect for us to do in-reach and outreach.

What I love about Alpha is that when you lead it you don't have to answer any questions. In fact you aren't supposed to answer questions. It is set up for people to explore and ask and discuss questions together, but the leader is not supposed to answer questions. This helps anyone who doesn't feel confident to answer the questions, but has a heart to share the gospel and wants to reach people for Christ in their neighborhood, family, or friend circles to be able to lead without fear. He or she just facilitates the conversation.

We will have two different classes this spring. You can go to either our Sunday night class from 5:45-7:15 or our Wednesday night class from 6:00-7:30. Jeff is leading the Sunday night and I am leading the Wednesday night. There will be a meal with fellowship, a video and then discussion. Each group will only have 8-12 people. We can have more than one group meeting at the same time, so there is no limit on how many people can sign up. A powerful part of Alpha is the extended worship/Holy Spirit day. On Saturday March 2nd we will bring both Sunday and Wednesday night groups together to have an amazing morning of worship, learning about the Holy Spirit, and an opportunity for healing prayer.

My prayer is in the fall we will have some groups happening in people's homes, at the Gables, maybe even at Tanglewood Middle school after school (Alpha has a youth study). I already have a couple interested in hosting in their home. You could put it on your Nextdoor website to invite people and see what God does with that... If you are even a tiny bit interested, please come and experience Alpha this spring, you could even invite a friend and take it together. This is something new and different for Westminster, but I am praying our church family can get on board and make Alpha through Westminster a place for transformation in 2019. To learn more about Alpha and register for one of our classes go to: <http://www.wumc.com/alpha.html>

Blessings,  
Kaisi

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kaisi at: [kcunningham@wumc.com](mailto:kcunningham@wumc.com)

# WAYS TO CONNECT

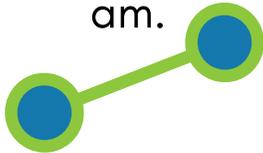
WOW – Women of Westminster –  
Monthly events. Check our website  
for details



Westminster Men Bible  
study on Tuesday's at 6:15  
am.

Mom's of Younger Children Bible  
Study on Tuesday mornings at 9:15

am.



Sunday Morning Small Groups  
at 10:05 am.

A class for every walk of life.

Monthly Harvey Work Day's  
Help the community rebuild!



Family, Children, Kid's and Youth  
events. See our website for  
details. Childcare provided as  
needed.



**WHAT IS...**

**rightnow** MEDIA

We're excited to give you free access to RightNow Media, a wonderful library of video resources for all ages from churches and pastors all across the country, to help you develop and grow as both a disciple of Jesus and disciple-maker. Streaming directly to your computer, tablet, or mobile device, you'll find the online Bible Study Library includes relevant content for every age group or spiritual season. You can search by category, topic, or speaker. Additionally, many of the series have direct links to workbooks and leader guides. Parents, you'll find that RightNow has a multitude of videos and resources for your kids. Utilize the links on our website to start using this resource today. Westminster will also have specialized channels that we recommend for you and your family.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kaisi at:  
kcunningham@wumc.com

Sunday's at 10:05 am

# SUNDAY ADULT SMALL GROUPS

Westminster,

We had some great fall lessons and I want to thank everyone for being willing to try new things when it comes to Sunday morning classes. I am pleased with the number of people coming to class and engaging in discussion.

I hope you will join us in one of the classes. You are welcome to try both and then pick one.

Blessings,

Kaisi Cunningham

Director of Programming

## McDANIEL CLASS

Young at heart senior adults. Begins class with singing a hymn followed by a study and is one of the first Sunday School class formed at Westminster. (Meets in room A-108.)

## SISTERS IN CHRIST

Women in all seasons of life! A DVD driven discussion-based class. (Meets in the Conference Room in the church's office.)

## PARLOR CLASS

## A-109 CLASS

**Feb. 3** Animate: Practices - Money

**Feb. 10** Animate: Practices - Service

**Feb. 17** Animate: Practices - Community

**Feb. 24** Feb. 24 - April 7:  
The Unseen Real

Jan. 6 - Feb. 10: Navigating  
your Finances God's Way  
Animate: Bible Genre

Feb. 24 - April 7:  
Seven Letters to Seven  
Churches

# Westminster Staff

Rev. Jeff Powers, Senior Pastor

Rev. Suzi Byrd, Associate Pastor

Treson Allen, Encounter Worship Leader

Christopher Carter, Director of Choral Ministries

Susan Terry, Organist

Kaisi Cunningham, Director of Programming

Priscilla Aguilar VerVoort, Director of Children's Ministries (Nursery-2nd Gr)

Millie Eads, Director of Kids Ministries (3rd-5th Gr)

Josh Rodrigue, Director of Youth Ministries (6th-12th Gr)

Jane Vallier, Treasurer

Donna Yost, Director of Operations

Jackie McDonald, Communications Specialist

Emily Jansky, Event Coordinator

Anna Hamilton, Wedding Coordinator

Ricardo Saravia, Custodian

Lucy Pinkerton, Sound Technician

Kellie Dietert, WWDS Director

Ruthie Holguin, WWDS Assistant Director

Susan Haggard, WWDS Administrative Assistant

## Get Involved

There are many ways to get involved here at Westminster UMC. Small groups, Bible Study, Sunday School, Missions and much more. Talk to an usher or call the office, Monday-Thursday 9 am - 4 pm for more information on how you can serve our church family. We welcome everyone and want to be in fellowship with you.

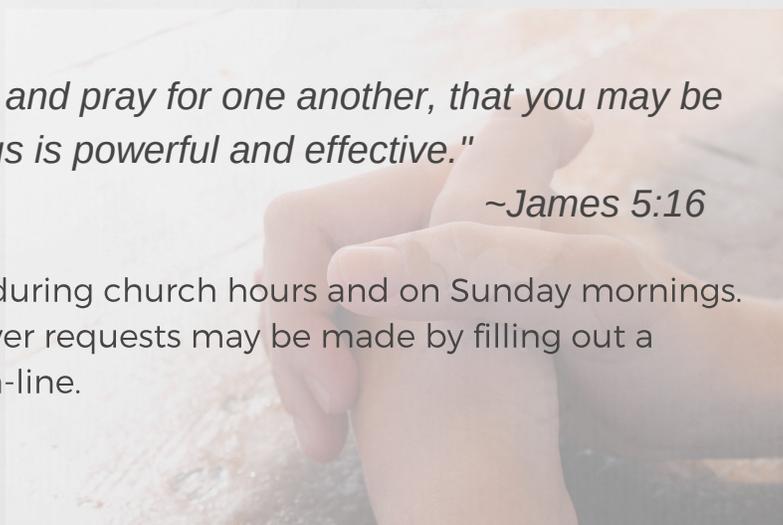
Join us, you are welcome here!

## Prayer Group

*"Confess your sin to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."*

*~James 5:16*

The prayer room is open weekdays during church hours and on Sunday mornings. The Prayer Garden is open 24/7. Prayer requests may be made by filling out a request card, calling the office, or on-line.





We are so glad you are here! If you are new to Westminster please see an usher for a free gift.

## LOVE GOD, MAKE FRIENDS, SERVE OTHERS

At Westminster, we profess the historic Christian faith in God, incarnate in Jesus Christ for our salvation and ever at work in human history in the Holy Spirit. Living in a covenant of grace under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we participate in the first fruits of God's coming reign and pray in hope for its full realization on earth as in heaven.

*Follow Us!*



**WESTMINSTERUMC**



**WESTMINSTER\_UMC**



**WESTMINSTERUMC**

Office Hours are Mon - Thurs 9 am - 4 pm

p. (713) 782-7750  
f. (713) 977-0340

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