



THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT AT WEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WEST WINDS

Peabody, Massachusetts

November 2017

GREETINGS FROM OUR INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR: GENE HEACOCK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I enjoyed meeting so many of you and I appreciated your responsiveness to God's word this past Sunday. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. As I mentioned my wife Sandy was not able to be with me last week but will attend next week to meet you. My ministry history has been a pastor, a missionary, and a professor as well as an Intentional Interim Pastor. This is my twelfth assignment as an Intentional Interim Pastor. I have provided a link that will give you more information about the purpose and the role of an Intentional Interim Pastor. Link: [Purpose of Interim Period Document](#)

My heart is pastoral with a special emphasis on renewal. Renewal focuses upon deepening and increasing God's light of revelation (Ephesians 1:18:19); God's heat of affection (Ephesians 2:5-8); and God's love that overflows to create a deep intimacy in His family (Ephesians 3:14-19).

My hope is that West Church will become more united, become more spiritually passionate about Jesus and His purposes here on earth. I have a calling and history of working in leadership development, training and equipping others for ministry. The role of an Intentional Interim Pastor is like a home inspector in many ways. I will examine all the components of church health, church ministry and all systems and operations. If you would like more information about my past ministry you may access this through. Link: [Curriculum Vitae](#)

Thank you for coming to the reception on Sunday. I sensed a coming together as a church body and increased hope that we are working together for the future. I connected with many of you Sunday and enjoyed hearing your stories of faith as well as your spiritual challenges. Please be patient with me in remembering all your names. Please take time to pray for me and for our church during this transition time. I know that anything of eternal value that happens is God's work not mine.

Transitional times can be challenging. Challenges often produce new growth in our lives. I have seen great spiritual growth in God's people in the past intentional interim pastorates which I have served. I expect that God will surprise us and do some amazing things in our midst as we trust Him and seek His face together. I am honored to serve as your Intentional Interim Pastor.

I wanted to provide some of the most frequently asked questions that I encounter as an Intentional Interim Pastor. Here are some very common questions I encounter.

How long do you expect to serve as our Intentional Interim Pastor? I expect to be at West Church six to twelve months. The shortest Interim I have served was nine months and the longest was twenty seven months. I make a commitment to create mutual accountability, evaluation and communication. West Church has created a four month contract which can be extended as needed.

What does the term Intentional Interim Pastor mean? The title suggests a specific role beyond pulpit supply or maintaining the current status quo of ministry and strategy. The Intentional Interim Pastor will often be charged and empowered by the church leadership to work at improving areas of ministry and strategy to prepare the way for the next Senior Pastor. You may review a punch list for Intentional Interim Pastors by using this link: [Punch List](#)

Will the Intentional Interim be considered as the next Senior Pastor? No, the contract requires the Intentional Interim Pastor to focus on his role of preparation by not being considered as a future candidate so he can approach his role without conflict of interest.

What are your basic roles and areas of responsibility? I have several roles. They include preaching, church direction and unity, a leadership structure review, spiritual care for those who are hurting, spiritual development of the staff and pastoral emergencies, weddings and funerals. This is a full time position and I will maintain regular office hours. Please let me know how I may serve you and equip you.

When will you be on site if I want to meet with you? I am available all day Sunday. I am in the office Monday through Thursday and Fridays as needed. I attend Deacons, Trustees and Pulpit Committee meetings and special meetings for prayer and leadership development as needed. I am here as a resource for you and your ministry as well.

How do you maintain your doctrinal core and distinctness as you serve within so many denominations? I have great respect for the variety of expression of polity and practice within the protestant traditions. I use two simple matrixes' that help me sort out Biblical conviction from Biblical persuasion from my own personal persuasions. I also distinguish between what is core theology, what is normative practice and what is form of expression. I would love to share these with the congregation as we walk this journey together. Link: [Core, Form, Norm and Levels of Belief Document](#)

How can we contact you?

Email: gene.heacock@westchurchpeabody.org

Church Phone: 978-535-4112



IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Pastoral Emergencies are critical life threatening medical situations, spiritual crisis as people require immediate help seeking Christ or other after office hours emergency support. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care during a time of crisis or an emergency please contact: Pastor Rick McDonnell, Associate Pastor; Pastor Gene Heacock, Intentional Interim Pastor; or Bill Thorburn, Chairman of the Board of Deacons. Their specific contact information is available from the office.

All normal needs such as counseling, meetings and maintenance care should come through the church office (office@westchurchpeabody.org or 978-535-4112).

*****The linked documents from the article are available in the office for those without internet access.***

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THERE IS SIN IN THE CAMP?

In Joshua 7 there is the sad account of the defeat of Israel at Ai. God had promised to the nation victory over their enemies as they traveled through the Land of Canaan but in this case there was clear defeat. Why? The narrative goes on to give the reason and the reason was 'sin in the camp'. Achan, from the tribe of Judah, had disobeyed the clear command given by the Lord not to keep any of the gold, silver, and treasures from the previous defeat of Jericho. All of the plunder was 'holy to the Lord', set apart for the treasury of the Lord (Joshua 6:18-19) none was to be kept by the people. However, Achan hid in his tent some of the devoted things to the Lord and the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel. (Joshua 7:1) Therefore God would not give them victory over their enemies until the sin was uncovered and confessed before Him. The rest of (Joshua 7) explains how the sin was confronted and dealt with in the camp. Once the sin was acknowledged and confessed the nation then went on again have victory over its enemies. God then gave Ai into the hands of Joshua and the nation and they had victory. (Joshua 8:1)

There are lessons here are for us as a Church Body. First, when we are disobedient to God it does not just affect us but has secondary impact on others. Achan's sinful decision to hide the silver and gold against the command of the Lord caused defeat for the whole nation in the battle at Ai. When we sin it hinders our fruitfulness and ministry in the lives in the Body of Christ. Sin blocks the power of God in our lives and thus has impact beyond our own personal life. When we are not right with God it spills over to the people with live with and minister with. Second, if we are holding on to sin God will not hear us, bless us, or give us victory both individually and corporately. Third, sin must be confessed if we are to continue in fellowship with the Lord, blessing from the Lord and see His victory both individually and collectively.

In the New Testament John teaches the same principle in 1 John 1:5-9, *"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

If we desire the Lord's blessing in our midst we must continually make sure that we are right with God and right we one another. If we are harboring sinful practices, habits, attitudes, behaviors, with God or to another person then we must repent, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. None of us are exempt from continuing to examine ourselves before the Lord and making sure we are in fellowship with God and one another. This is our responsibility out of love for God and one another. This means every person, every committee member, every board member, every leader, every pastor and every staff person. If we refuse to face sinful practices, habits, attitudes, or behaviors then we can only expect displeasure from God and spiritual defeat. But it is God's desire for His people to walk in joyful fellowship with Him and each other and participate in the extension of His kingdom both locally and globally.

Let us resolve together to honor our Lord by walking in obedience to Him, making sure we are right with God and one another. This is how we show our love for Him and one another. *"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. ~John 14:21"*

I love you,
Pastor Rick

Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks Back an Hour Daylight Savings Begins ~ Sunday, November 5, 2017

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH

As you know, the actual search process opened on October 1. Since that time we have received numerous communications from potential applicants from around the world. We've referred several of them to our website for details about the application process. In addition we have received more than 10 completed applications and have moved some on to Phase 2. We are still awaiting additional information from other applicants before they can be considered. We continue to meet weekly to evaluate and process applicants. Please continue to pray as we seek the Lord's choice of a senior pastor for West Church.

If you know anyone who may be interested in applying for this position, please encourage them to visit our website. The process and related information for applicants are posted at:

[Senior Pastor Search Link.](#)

2018 BUDGETS

The Trustees ask that all 2018 Budgets be submitted by **November 5.**

HURRICANE RELIEF

The Missions Committee has voted to donate from our "Special Needs" Fund to help those affected by recent hurricanes. But since the needs are so great, we are opening a "Hurricane Relief" Fund to anyone who would like to contribute. The relief money will be directed to Samaritan's Purse as they are already up and running and are bringing aid in the name of Christ. Please designate on your envelopes "Hurricane Relief" if you want to direct any giving to this fund. To give directly to Samaritan's Purse visit: [Samaritan's Purse Website.](#)



OPEN PRAYER TIMES

THURSDAYS FROM 9AM-1 PM

Feel free to come to the church between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm to pray for our church. This is an informal time and people may come and go during those hours. Let us seek God's will!

PEN, PIE & PRAYER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 6:30 PM

A night of ministry for our missionaries

Plan to be with us for our annual Pen, Pie, and Prayer Night on Sunday, November 12 at 6:30 pm, in Lyons Hall. This is a delightful evening of fellowship and ministry for adults and children as we 'create' Christmas cards for our missionary family around the world. Each family is asked to bring a pie (homemade or store bought). The Missions Committee will provide the ice cream and beverages. Come as a family for this ministry experience!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year, West Church will be collecting gift-filled shoe boxes as part of the Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child project. Every shoe box you pack represents and opportunity to share the gospel. Donny and Lisa Philpot will be in the lower narthex on Sundays following the Worship Service for you to pick up instructions and boxes. We will be collecting the filled boxes each Sunday through **November 19.**

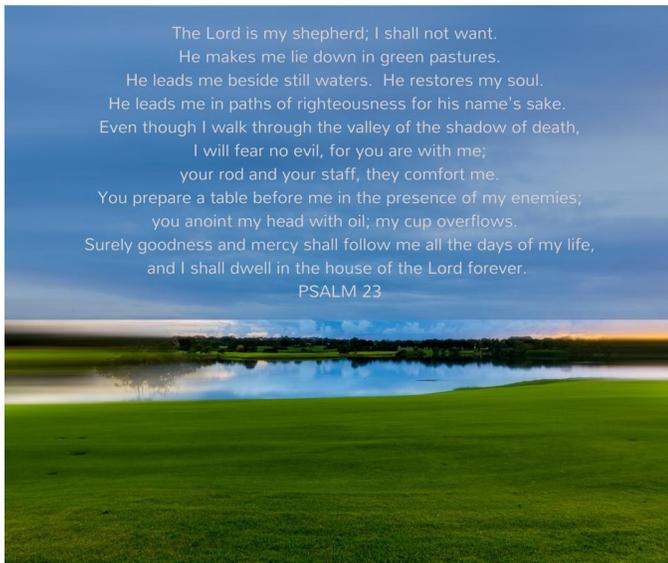


For ministry info visit: [Samaritan's Purse Website](#)

PIONEER GIRLS NEWS

We are thrilled to embrace another year full of adventure, fun and life-changing exploration of God's Word!

Our theme passage this year is Psalm 23:



As we dig deep into the truths of this familiar Psalm, we'll challenge the girls to discover not only what it means to have Jesus as their Shepherd, but how this amazing fact can impact their daily lives. *Where are the green pastures and quiet waters in my life? How does He restore my soul? Is it possible for me to walk through deep, dark valleys and not be afraid? How can my cup overflow (and what does that even mean)? Can I dwell in Jesus' house forever, too?* These are just some of the important questions we'll be searching for answers to throughout our time together! It's going to be a year of powerful discoveries as we seek to understand that "The LORD is my Shepherd."

We are eager to continue our Gal Pal ministry with the many women of West Church who have volunteered! We have over 40 girls, so if you're not yet a Gal Pal but would like to be one, please let us know.

In honor of Thanksgiving, there will be no club meeting on Wednesday, November 22. We wish all of our Pioneer Girls and their families a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

With Thanksgiving,
Michelle Gandra & Diane Haywood



The Pioneer Girls of West Church cordially invite their Gal Pals to join them on Wednesday, November 29 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in Lyon's Hall for a special evening of Gal Pal Fun. Our time together will include get-to-know-you activities, a Christmas craft for the Gal Pals and their Pioneer Girl Pals to create together, a scrumptious snack, and a special time of prayer. We look forward to continuing this wonderful ministry of prayer, cards, and friendship. Gal Pals, please RSVP to Michelle or Diane.

YOUTH MEETINGS: GRADES 7-12

On the first Sunday of each month the youth of West Church will be joining the youth from the Branch Church and Calvary Baptist Church for an evening of fun, fellowship and study. On Sunday, November 5 the group will meet at Covenant Christian Academy (83 Pine Street, Peabody) from 6:00 - 7:15 pm. For more information contact:

Pastor Rick McDonnell

978-535-4112

wc4rick@westchurchpeabody.org.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY KINGDOM KIDS

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.*

*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!*

Psalm 127: 3-5

Each Sunday more than 25 children (nursery – grade 4) attend Kingdom Kids during the Worship Service. This is a time when children enjoy learning how to deepen their relationship with Jesus through Biblical teaching and have fun building community with each other.

Kingdom Kids meets in 4 different age group classes: Seedlings (ages 0 -2), Sprouts (ages 2-3), Buds and Blossoms (ages 4-6), and Oaks (grades 1-4). Serving these children each Sunday are volunteers who prepare lessons and crafts and then lead and care for the children of West Church and guest families during the Worship Service.

The CE Committee is seeking 64 volunteers to step forward to volunteer in one of the four age groups. This large number of volunteers will result in a volunteer serving once every 8 weeks. We are very close to meeting our goal of 64 volunteers. One more volunteer is needed for Seedlings and four volunteers are needed in the Buds and Blossoms group to minister to children ages 4-5.

To volunteer please contact:

The Kingdom Kids Scheduling Coordinator
kingdomkids@westchurchpeabody.org

Or speak with a CE Committee member.

HAVEN FROM HUNGER

The first Monday of each month, 8-12 volunteers prepare and serve dinner for the Haven From Hunger (71 Wallis Street, Peabody), which feeds from 20 - 40 people. New volunteers are always welcome to join us. In addition volunteers are needed to provide dessert (brownies without nuts) for our monthly dinners. Baked donations can be left in the kitchen on the Sunday before our meal date. The team would appreciate additional brownies which we package with a Bible verse for distribution. In November the West Church group will be preparing and serving the meal on Monday, November 6. Brownies can be dropped off in the kitchen on Sunday, November 5.

THANKSGIVING PRAISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:00 PM

Each person, who would like to express their thanksgiving to God, will be given the opportunity to give a personal testimony of praise. This is NOT a preaching service.

Set the date aside and make plans to be with us as we join together for this night of corporate thanks to the Lord.

SAVE THE DATE

December 16 at 7:00 pm Christmas Potpourri Event: *Celebrating Jesus, The Promise Fulfilled.* This will be an evening of beautiful music and elegant food. Plan now to come and to bring your friends.

NOVEMBER 2017 WEST WINDS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			9:15 am Women's Bible Study Upper Room 7:00 pm •CSB: ALL 3 Groups •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls •Parenting Class: Upper Room •Childcare: Nursery/2's and 3's	9:00 am – 1:00 pm Open Prayer: Sanctuary 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Sunday School Training Night Upper Room 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting 2's and 3's Room	WOMEN'S RETREAT	WOMEN'S RETREAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME WOMEN'S RETREAT 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6:00 – 7:15 pm Joint Youth Group Meeting Branch Church at CCA	Haven From Hunger •3:15 pm Prepare Meal •5:00 pm Serve Meal 7:30 pm Pulpit Search Committee Upper Room		9:15 am Women's Bible Study Upper Room 7:00 pm •CSB: Stockade and Battalion •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls •Parenting Class: Upper Room •Childcare: Nursery/2's and 3's	9:00 am – 1:00 pm Open Prayer: Sanctuary 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Sunday School Training Night Upper Room 7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting 2's and 3's Room	MAN CAMP WEEKEND VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVED OFFICE CLOSED	MAN CAMP WEEKEND Evening College and Career Upper Room
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MAN CAMP WEEKEND 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Pen, Pie, and Prayer Lyons Hall	7:30 pm Pulpit Search Committee Upper Room	7:30pm •Board of Deacons Meeting •Board of Trustees Meeting	9:15 am Women's Bible Study Upper Room 7:00 pm •CSB: ALL 3 Groups •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls •Parenting Class: Upper Room •Childcare: Nursery/2's and 3's	9:00 am – 1:00 pm Open Prayer: Sanctuary 7:00 pm Missions Committee Meeting Upper Room		6:00 pm SALT Lyons Hall and Upper Room
19 COMMUNION SUNDAY	20	21	22	23	24	25
FINAL SHOEBOX COLLECTION 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Service			THANKSGIVING BREAK NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY NO EVENING PROGRAMS	THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	THANKSGIVING BREAK OFFICE CLOSED	Evening College and Career Upper Room
26	27	28	29	30		
8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service *Worship Team Rehearsal * Décor Committee Meeting	7:30 pm Pulpit Search Committee Upper Room	7:00pm Community Outreach Upper Room	7:00 pm •CSB: Stockade and Battalion •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls: GAL PAL Event Lyons Hall •CE Committee Meeting 2's and 3's Room	9:00 am – 1:00 pm Open Prayer: Sanctuary		