



THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT AT WEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# WEST WINDS

27 Johnson Street, Peabody,

March 2018

## ***JOURNEY TO THE CROSS***

Jesus' journey to the cross had been prepared as part of Divine intention before the creation of the world began. Jesus was the "lamb that was slain from the creation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). The plan was eternal and divine but the journey to the cross was temporal and human to its core. There were no shortcuts to the cross. The cross was terminal, it was a one-way trip and it was a lonely journey.

Although Jesus' death was preordained by the Fathers' plan and Jesus willingly went to the cross in perfect humility, Jesus learned obedience through His suffering. Have you?

"Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what He suffered." (Hebrews 5:8)

Many times we think that Jesus never needed to learn anything. We often think that He did everything in some type of rote mechanical fashion like a Cyborg or a Robotron as if He was programmed to do so. However, the Biblical picture of Jesus portrays another story. He was tempted by the Devil, frustrated by His disciples, rejected by His friends and often found solace in being alone. Jesus learned obedience through His suffering. The journey to the cross for Jesus required discovery, new growth, and death to self.

Please prepare yourself for Holy Week 2018 by reading the daily devotions provided in the upcoming All-Church emails, which you will receive every day during Holy Week. (Hard copies will be available at the church office.)

Our theme for Holy Week 2018 is *Journey to the Cross*. We will be comparing our journey to the cross with Jesus' journey to the cross.

How are Jesus' journey and our journey similar? How are they different? We will focus on Jesus and His journey of suffering. Jesus learned obedience through His sufferings. Are you learning obedience through your sufferings? Jesus' sacrifice was complete. He was crucified. Am I truly crucified? Are you?

Does our need for control and for credit corrode our souls like winter salt impacts a car? Does your need for self-protection or the need to prove something rear its ugly head like the frost heaves hurl stones out of our New England roads and fields?

Take time to review the Journey to Humility guide and ask yourself: Where do I need to grow? How is my ego? It is hard to have my ego hurt if I have already been crucified with Christ! Take time to reflect on your journey to the cross. What is the greatest challenge on my journey to the cross in contrast to Jesus' journey to the Cross? Take time to share your greatest challenge as well as your greatest area of progress with someone else.

## THE BILLY GRAHAM LEGACY

Since the death of Billy Graham, there has been an abundance of commentary on this man's life and ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ from both from the secular and Christian camps. West Church had a special relationship with the Billy Graham Evangelist Organization being one of the regional counseling centers for so many years. It was a great opportunity for evangelical churches, Gordon-Conwell Theological and Gordon College students to partner together for the sake of the Gospel. As I think of the ministry of Billy Graham there are a few 'Take A Ways' that we would do well to implement individually and collectively.

The first application is The Authority of the Scriptures. If you listened at any time when Billy Graham preached there was a favorite phrase he used over the decades which is ***'The Bible Says....'*** How many times would we see Billy Graham hold up the Bible and quote the above phrase? The success of his ministry I believe was because he honored and stood upon the authority of the Scriptures. He quoted various passages of Scripture that contained the key element of the gospel message continually in his preaching. He was, in essence, saying to his audience that God has spoken, this is the Truth, and you will be accountable for the hearing of God's Word. The application for us is clear, do you personally in your life, marriage, parenting, ministry, your evangelism stand authoritatively on God's Word? Do you believe it is the Absolute Truth? Do you stand upon it with your life? Do you know we are accountable to it? Billy Graham was a great example of one whose life and ministry was shaped by the belief in the Authority of Scripture. ***"And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*** (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

The second application from Billy Graham's life and ministry that we would do well to imitate is his lack of fear of men and women. Over the decades of his preaching and pastoral ministry to people of influence he never was unashamed of the Gospel. It did not matter how powerful or insignificant, large or small, strong or weak he preached the same message of repentance and faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and salvation of souls. He warned people of the eternal fires of Hell and that Christ alone was the only way for the salvation of their souls. How we all need to ask God to give us more courage to overcome the fear of men and women and be able to speak the Gospel in love without being ashamed of the message! If we individually and collectively had 50% of Billy Graham's courage our lives and church would be changed dramatically. ***"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*** (Romans 1:16)

The final application from Billy Graham's life and ministry is the personal testimony of how he lived his life before God and people. In all the years of his public ministry with all the money, fame and influence that he and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Organization experienced never has there been a scandal or question about the integrity of this man's life. His life and the way he lived it adorned the Gospel message he preached. How you and I live our lives as Christians before the face of God and culture does matter! How we live either adorns the Gospel we believe and share or it undercuts it depending on how we conduct ourselves each day. ***"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."*** (1 Peter 2:12)

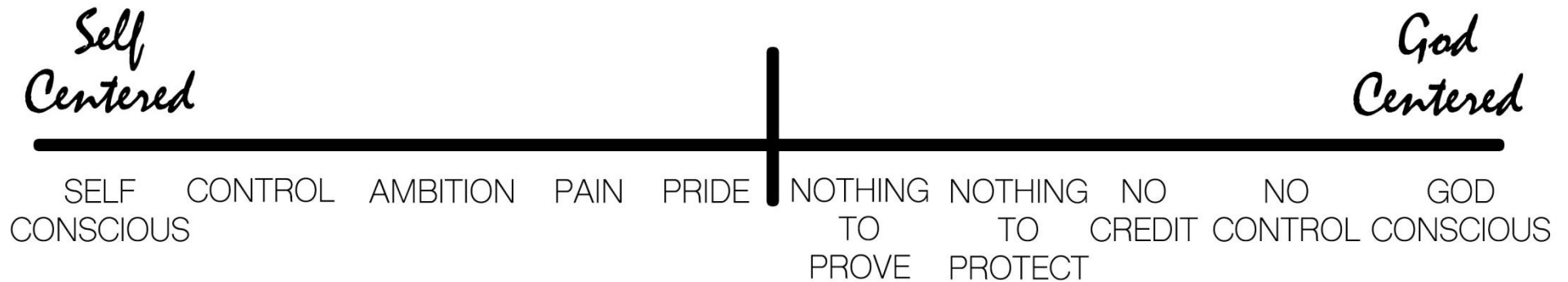
Let us thank God for raising up this man and his ministry for so many decades and perhaps God will raise up another to preach to our country and the nations

I Love you,

Pastor Rick

## JOURNEY TO HUMILITY GUIDE

# Examining Our Own Journey to the Cross



My greatest challenge in my journey towards humility is?

# Jesus' Journey to the Cross

CRUCIFIXION



*God  
Centered*

*God  
Centered*

GOD  
CONSCIOUS

CONTROL

AMBITION

PAIN

PRIDE

NOTHING  
TO  
PROVE

NOTHING  
TO  
PROTECT

NO  
CREDIT

NO  
CONTROL

GOD  
CONSCIOUS

SURRENDERED  
CRUCIFIED

GOD'S  
WILL  
ABOVE

IN  
GOD'S  
HANDS

NO  
PERSONAL  
EGO

SECURE  
IN  
GOD

SAFE  
IN  
GOD

SEEKS  
GOD'S  
GLORY

TRUST  
FATHER'S  
PLAN

MARK  
15:24

LUKE  
22:42

LUKE  
23:46

PHILLIPIANS  
2:5-7

JOHN  
10:25

MATTHEW  
26:53

JOHN  
8:54

JOHN  
13:3

## ALL CHURCH SUNDAY BRUNCH

**Sunday, March 11 at 12:30 pm**

The Potpourri invites you to a brunch in Lyons Hall following the morning worship service. Please RSVP by March 4 using the bulletin insert or by contacting the office. A donation of \$5 per adult, \$10 per family is suggested to help defray the cost.

## WEST MEETS EAST: PIANO CONCERT

**Sunday, March 11 at 2 pm**

Dr. Joo Hye Kim and Dr. Eunhae Grace Lee will present a piano four-hands concert, "West Meets East". The concert will include works by Dvorak, Kreisler, Mendelssohn, and Ravel. Piano four-hands is a format in which two pianists play a single piano together. This presentation produces an even fuller sound than solo piano and requires an extremely high level of collaborative spirit between the two pianists. A light dessert reception will follow the concert in Lyons Hall for all concert guests. To read more about the pianists visit the church website.

This is a great opportunity to invite an unsaved friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family to a quality musical event. Please begin praying and thinking of who you might invite!



## MEMORIAL EASTER LILIES

For Easter Sunday, April 1, we again will decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies as we have in past years.

If you would like to provide a lily in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form in the bulletin on March 11 and March 18 or contact the church office with your order. The cost of each lily is \$14.00. All flower orders need to be in the church office by **Palm Sunday, March 25**. The lilies are yours to take following the Easter Worship Service.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FAQ's

Each week Pastor Gene answers 7-10 common questions about the transition time here at West Congregational Church. These FAQ's are emailed out in an All-Church email and paper copies are available in the office. Please contact the office if you would like to be included on the All-Church email distribution list.

**Who can I talk with from the leadership if I have more in-depth questions?** Pastor Gene has been called here to focus on Church Unity and Structural changes specifically dealing with our Constitution, Polity and Leadership challenges.

You may contact him using the information below:

- Email: [gene.heacock@westchurchpeabody.org](mailto:gene.heacock@westchurchpeabody.org)
- Church Phone: 978- 535-4112

## NEW FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY

The West Church Fellowship Directory is provided as a service to the church community with the hope that it will be an encouragement for personal contact, spiritual fellowship, and growth in our life together as a Christ-Centered Church.

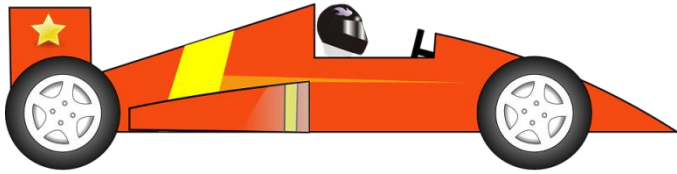
The information in this Fellowship Directory is the sole property of West Congregational Church, Peabody, MA, and is not intended for use by the general public outside of the church, nor is it to be used for commercial purposes or solicitations in any form.

Our last directory was published in 2015 and the information needs to be updated. Directory Information Forms will be available for families and individuals to complete during the month of March. Our hope is to have the new directories ready to distribute by the middle of April.

## ROCK SOLID NEWS

**Sunday, March 4 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

Our Rock Solid Youth Ministry will be joining the youth of the Branch Church and Calvary Baptist Church for First Sunday Night (FSN), a monthly gathering of youth, on March 4 from 6:00-7:30 pm. First Sunday Night exists to provide a place for students to connect with friends and deal with real-life issues. We have great music, memorable activities and Biblical teaching that meets/challenges real life issues. First Sunday Night is for youth in grades 7-12 and meets at Covenant Christian Academy (83 Pine Street, Peabody).



## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, March 17 from 8 am – 2 pm**

### StockCar Derby

The Christian Service Brigade Stockaders have designed and are building their cars for the upcoming StockCar Derby race. Each boy has been diligently working to take a small rough block of wood and turn it into a fast StockCar ready to race down the track at the derby. Many other Stockade groups from other local churches will be at the derby too. This race will take place on Saturday, March 17 at Grace Chapel (3 Militia Drive, Lexington). Each Stockader will be racing their own car. Families are invited to attend the race.



[www.westchurchpeabody.org](http://www.westchurchpeabody.org)  
[www.facebook.com/westchurchpeabody](https://www.facebook.com/westchurchpeabody)

## MISSIONS PRAYER WATCH

**Special Guests: The Wolgemuth Family**

**Sunday, March 18 at 7:00 pm**

Plan to come and join us on March 18 as we get to know Timothy and Tina Wolgemuth and their children. The Wolgemuths, newly supported West Church missionaries, minister with Ethnos360. Of the world's 6,500 people groups, 2,500 are still unreached. Ethnos360, founded in 1942 as New Tribes Mission, helps local churches train, coordinate and send missionaries to these peoples.



Children are invited to Meet Your Missionary Kids during the meeting in the 2's and 3's Pre-School classroom. They will have an opportunity to meet with the Wolgemuth children during this time.

The Wolgemuths will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, March 18 during the morning worship service.



## CONNECT WITH US

**Phone:** 978-535-4112

**Pastor Gene Heacock's Email:** [gene.heacock@westchurchpeabody.org](mailto:gene.heacock@westchurchpeabody.org)

**Pastor Rick McDonnell's Email:** [wc4rick@westchurchpeabody.org](mailto:wc4rick@westchurchpeabody.org)

**Office Email:** [office@westchurchpeabody.org](mailto:office@westchurchpeabody.org)

# MARCH 2018 WEST WINDS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
					7:30 pm HFG: Roy's Home	8:30 am GAiN Sewing Ministry 2's and 3's Classroom  8:00 am – 5:00 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room
<b>4 COMMUNION</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship *Easter Ensemble *Décor Committee  6:00 -7:15 pm Rock Solid: First Night	Haven From Hunger •3:15 pm Prepare •5:00 pm Serve Meal		9:15 am WBS  7:00 pm •CSB: <b>ALL 3 Groups</b> •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls			7:30 pm Marriage Builders Teal's Home  <i>Daylight Savings Time Spring Ahead 1 Hour</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Brunch 2:00 pm Piano Concert 3:00 pm Reception	7:30 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room	7:30 pm • Board of Deacons • Board of Trustees	9:15 am WBS  7:00 pm •CSB: Stockade & Battalion •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls	7:00 pm Missions Cmte Upper Room	7:30 pm HFG: Roy's Home	8 am – 2 pm CSB: Stockar Derby Grace Chapel  6:00 pm SALT
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Pioneer Girls Sunday</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship *Easter Ensemble *Missions Cmte Lunch 7:00 pm Prayer Watch	7:30 pm Pulpit Committee Upper Room		9:15 am WBS  7:00 pm •CE Meeting •CSB: <b>ALL 3 Groups</b> •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls			9:00 am – 11:00 am Membership Class Upper Room
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship *Easter Ensemble	7:00 pm Ladies' Easter Tea Lyons Hall	7:00 pm Outreach Cmte Upper Room	9:15 am WBS  7:00 pm •CSB: Stockade & Battalion •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's •Pioneer Girls	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 7:00 pm Communion Service	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 6:30 am Morning Service  7:00 am Breakfast	

**HOLY WEEK → Journey to the Cross**

*Palm Sunday*  
The Last Supper  
**Good Friday**  
*Resurrection*

**HOLY**  
**WEEK**

March 25-April 1

## ***JOURNEY TO THE CROSS***

**Palm Sunday Service: March 25 at 10:30 am**

*What's Left When the Parade is Over – John 12:12-19*

Pastor Gene Heacock

**Ladies' Easter Tea: Monday, March 26 at 7:00 pm**

**Maundy Thursday Communion Service: March 29 at 7:00 pm**

*The Betrayal of God – John 13:18-30*

Pastor Gene Heacock

**Good Friday Service: March 30 at 6:30 am**

*Surrendering to the Father's Will – Luke 23:46*

Pastor Rick McDonnell

**Good Friday Breakfast at 7:00 am**

**Easter Sunday Worship Service: April 1 at 9:30 am**

*The Power of Jesus' Resurrection*

Pastor Gene Heacock