



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WPC Westlake

THE COMMUNICANT

Friends,

Difficult, lonely, painful, confusing, scary...just a few of the words used to describe what we've been through this last year. It's been a season unlike any other...for our community, our church, the entire world. I think I first began to grasp the depth of what we were going through about a month into the pandemic, when our oldest daughter asked, "dad how did you handle pandemics when you were a kid?" Her question caused me to pause, to consider the significance of this moment in history, and to accept, maybe even embrace, stepping into the unknown.

Hopeful, cautiously optimistic, relieved...just a few of the words I've heard used in the last couple of months as the thick fog of the pandemic lifts, or at the very least becomes less dense. Today's conversations sound different than they did a year ago. They vacillate between fear of sliding backward and anticipation of the arrival of some type of new normal. We won't truly know all the lasting impacts of COVID-19 for years to come, but we're making strides as a society that point to humans winning and the virus losing.

Humbled, encouraged, excited...a few of the words that come to mind when I think of Westminster and where we are today. This pandemic forced us to innovate, to ask questions, and to think openly about what we consider most essential. We've found new ways to celebrate with one another in worship, to serve our community, to grow in our faith, and to gather in community. This season has proven that a congregation steeped in tradition can adapt and change to meet today's emerging needs. As we face the uncertainty of it all together, we're re-learning an old lesson...God is faithful. Thank you. Thank you for being flexible, for being patient, and for remaining committed to the work God is doing in and through our community.

With you on a journey of faith, friendship, and service,



Pastor Dave Rohde



Spring 2021

REMEMBERING JUDY



Over the last forty plus years Judy Hightower poured herself into the Westminster Presbyterian Church Preschool as a teacher, director and friend. Judy worked fervently to celebrate every child and to make sure they knew they were loved. Every nook and cranny of our school has her fingerprints on them and what we do moving forward will continue to be shaped her legacy.

The Story of the Lollipop Tradition

As the shine shown bright on a pleasant afternoon at WPC preschool, about 16 years ago, a little boy named David took a tumble on the play yard and hurt himself. It seemed that band aids would not remedy this situation but luckily, at that time, Westlake Hospital was right next door. Judy, the bubbly cheerful director, held David's hand, accompanied him to the hospital, and comforted him as stitches were being put in place. When all was said and done, Judy asked the nurse, "Do you have a lollipop for my friend, David?" The look on the nurse's face could only be described as quite embarrassed, for she sadly admitted that she did not have a lollipop or even a sticker for that matter. And so the journey of the lollipop began...

Judy was dismayed, David was disappointed, but if there's one thing Judy has taught all of us, there's always a solution to a problem. Judy took David's hand and with a gentle smile said, "Come by my office tomorrow, a lollipop will be waiting for you." Judy did not bring just one lollipop to her office; she brought an entire bag of Dum Dum lollipops. While there are many types of lollipops to pick from, she specifically chose Dum Dum lollipops for their small size, minimal amount of sugar, multiple flavors and, of course, always gluten free. The next day as David came bouncing into the office to check if Miss Judy was true to her word, a huge smile formed from ear to ear, for Miss Judy had not one but several Dum Dums for David! She greeted him with

her warm smile, gave him a hug, and asked, "How are you feeling?" David had all but forgotten about his stitches as he ran out the door while enjoying his lollipop and meeting up with his friends. As Judy took a breath, watched the moment unfold, her heart was full...

The story did not end there. The next day, David came back to the Preschool Office with a friend to see if Miss Judy had any more lollipops left in her bag. Judy was tickled pink that he was clever enough to know that she might have a few more to hand out. David got to pick out another Dum Dum and so did his friend. As one can well imagine, before long, the entire school got wind of Miss Judy's lollipops! Shortly thereafter, a preschool family gave Miss Judy the jar of lollipops that we still use today. As the tradition grew, so did her relationship with Spangler Candy Company (now buying in bulk); she knew the popular flavors, always buying extra pink and blue ones, making sure she would never run out. Judy enjoyed every minute of passing out lollipops and interacting with the children as much as the children loved receiving the small treat after class. A sweet tradition that will always live on at WPC Preschool!

Judy loved everything about WPCP, but our outdoor classroom held a special place in her heart. Our preschool board, parent advisory board, and property committee are working together to build a fitting memorial in and around the yard that will carry Judy's name and share her story. Any funds in excess of the memorial needs will be used to directly enrich the preschool students' experience. Potential examples include a needs-based scholarship, renovation to the preschool outdoor spaces, etc.

You can give to this fund the following ways:

<https://pushpay.com/g/wpcwestlake?src=hpp>
(select "Judy Hightower Memorial Fund")

Venmo Donation to @wpcWestlake (in description write "Judy Hightower Memorial Fund")

Mail a Donation: Westminster Presbyterian Church
32111 Watergate Rd. Westlake Village, CA 91361
(designate "Judy Hightower Memorial Fund" on check)

Sending peace, love and lollipops as we honor Miss Judy Hightower.

MISSION EDITION

The “Brink Fund” (as it is commonly referred to) is a gift to Westminster Presbyterian Church specifically to be given away.

Jack Brink was a member of WPC from May 21, 2005 until his death on August 10, 2008. The family trust stipulated that a permanent endowment be established at the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Foundation. WPC, as a beneficiary, opted to create a Fund there, as well, to administer the distributions. The income from that Fund is to be used to support WPC’s mission effort. The Finance Committee oversees the Fund on behalf of WPC and the Mission Committee oversees the spending of it. The use of the income is specifically for:

- 1) Start up or seed money for new mission opportunities
- 2) Disaster relief
- 3) Financial support for WPC congregational mission involvement.

The Brink Fund is not intended to replace funds distributed through the normal Social Ministry and Mission Committee budget allocations as reflected in the WPC Operating Budget. The Brink Fund is not to be used to sustain the committee’s operating budget; it is meant to provide funding for mission projects over and above budget on an on- going basis. However, with the last few years of budgetary constraints and the Social Ministry and Mission Committee having no budget at all, we have been able to avoid abandoning the ministries most dependent upon our support and important to our congregation through the use of the Brink Fund.

Among these important relationships are Westminster Free Clinic and Haiti Healthcare Partners, both of which got their start at WPC. Other important ministry partners are New Vision,

Manna, Lutheran Social Services, and Harbor House. All contributions made by the Mission Committee are listed in the Annual Reports, so that everyone will know who received the gifts and how much was sent.

If you have questions about Mission activity during the year, feel free to ask a Committee member or call the Church office (818-889-1491) to get contact information.



DEACON CORNER

Deacons play an important role in being the "eyes and ears" toward the care needs of the congregation.

Together with the pastors, Deacons care for their congregation both members and those who call WPC their home. The Deacon board supports various WPC ministries such as

Preschool liaison, such as home communion, Memorial Receptions, and monetary assistance via the Deacon Emergency Assistance Fund. Donations are always welcome to support the various needs of both within and beyond the community of faith.

Meet the 2021 Deacon Board Members and Deacon Care Groups:

Sharon Dyer	Acts
Lori Cross	Colossians
Tamara Kilpatrick	Corinthians
Margaret Philpott	Ephesians
Lynne Wilkins	Galatians 1
Sue Ann Bryant	Galatians 2
Jo Zimmerman	John 1
Reinhard Denke	John 2
Lisa Rush	Luke
Kerby Langendorf	Mark 1 & 2
Ruth Grey	Matthew 1 & 2
Sandra Chang	Philemon 1
Nora Li	Philemon 2
Laura Felberg	Philippians
Katelin & Mike Blum	Romans
Michelle Nash	Thessalonians
Kim Robertson	Timothy
Kristina Virtue	Titus 1
Ed Wohlenberg	Titus 2
Kim Robertson, Board of Deacons Moderator	

SYF SERVICE PROJECTS

The Senior High Youth Ministry program has been meeting outside in our courtyard observing all the COVID protocols every Sunday afternoon enjoying fellowship, worship, and hearing scripture-based messages that encourage our faith. We have participated in several of the Harbor House lunch making projects contributing 30 lunches each time. We also worked with the Ruben Castro Charities ministry in Moorpark helping sort and box fruits and vegetables to be provided for 300 families in the area. We are making plans to welcome current

8th grade students into S.Y.F. as they make the transition into high school. After a disappointing summer last year of no mission trip to enjoy, we will be going to Philippi West Virginia this summer to continue our investment in this local community that first took place in 2003. We are very much looking forward to going and serving others, representing this Church, in ways that will grow each of us spiritually and as a group. We ask that you keep our group in your prayers as we prepare for this amazing experience! - J.R. Robertson



GIRL GROUPS

Beginning on in August of 2020, a High School Girls Group formed and continues to gather every other Thursday here on campus, led by Carolyn Booser and Catherine Slabaugh. The group grew from 4 people originally, to consistently welcome around 8 high-schoolers. The girls, who didn't previously all know each other well, have since developed a wonderful bond and each bring a unique gift to this rather diverse group. The group began with a multitude of community building activities to provide them a space to get to know each other a bit



better – including collaging vision boards, decorating Halloween gingerbread mansions, making eucalyptus thanksgiving wreaths and so

much more. This past January as the girls grew to know each other a bit better, we entered into deeper theological conversations and Bible studies together,



providing a vulnerable space for us all to wonder, learn, and grow together. Since starting the group back in August, the girls have become quite active in the greater

WPC community, as many of them began regularly volunteering with Children & Family Ministries, collaborated to plan and host spring-time events such as the Palm Sunday Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt, and continue to

grow in their faith as leaders here. We're looking forward to continuing this group into the summer and next year!



Beginning in January of 2021, our Middle School Girls Group launched! The group is led by Hannah Rutter and Teri Kupfer and gathers every other Sunday in the WPC Courtyard. The group regularly welcomes around 5 middle school girls and provides a wonderful environment for them to be creative, laugh together, explore the Bible and ask tough life questions, as well as benefit from the mentorship of Hannah and Teri.



The Middle School Girls are also active in our weekly JYF group gatherings, and many volunteer

with Kids Fellowship club as Student Leaders! Both the Middle and High School Girls Group hosted a joint event together last Fall and are looking to host another in the coming month. We're looking forward to continuing this group into the summer and next year, along with welcoming in our new 6th graders!

MUSIC MINISTRIES



During this pandemic season, our Music Ministries team has faced unique challenges in continuing to provide a worship experience through music for our congregation. However, WPC is blessed to have a wonderful core of talented, dedicated, and flexible musicians who are more than up to the challenge!

In order to involve as many of our musicians as possible while honoring COVID restrictions, we committed to using a remote recording method of preparing music, where our singers and instrumentalists would video record themselves via smart phones, tablets, and cameras singing or playing to a guide track. The recordings are then sent to our Director of Music Ministries, Ed Smart, who combines the music of both the Choir and Praise Team together. Then he and our intern, Samantha Smart, edit the videos of the recordings together along with the other video elements of our service which have been recorded by Pastor Dave and other service participants. The end result is uploaded to YouTube and has provided our congregation a way to continue worshiping every week even though we haven't always been able to be together.

This remote recording method has also provided unique opportunities, as we have been able to have former WPC members who are out of the area to be involved, from as far away as Utah and Washington D.C. We've also been able to produce special virtual concerts for Christmas and for the

dedication of our new sanctuary grand piano from Drs. Dwite and Kathy Dahms.

Starting last summer, WPC added an outdoor, in person, socially distanced worship service, which has steadily grown and has gone from our parking lot to our courtyard and will be heading back into our sanctuary. Our wonderful musicians have also helped augment the worship at these services. We look forward to the time when all of our Music ministries team will be able to lead worship together in the same space!

Again, many thanks to all who have played such a vital part in keeping our worship going!

Choir: Penny Brady, Kat Michaels, Ron Robinson, Merrily Hake, Greg Ogden, J Michaels, Tom Robison, Devery Holmes, Ella Rohde, Ed Wohlenberg, Gail Wohlenberg, Kerby Langendorf, Jonalyn Saxer, Gary Saxer, Shelley Saxer, Kathy Josselyn, Patricia Smart, Mark Pierce, Marty Oemig

Praise Team: Bob Burris, Celeste Cosnell, Jim Martin, Jody Martin, J Michaels, Kat Michaels

Organist: Pavel Petrov

Instrumentalists: Dianne and Philip Rammon, Katie Smart, , Whitney Raleigh, Gary and Phyllis Rautenberg, Maksim Velichkin

Director and Video Production: Ed Smart (Director of Music Ministries), Samantha Smart

PAST EVENTS

Drive Thru Trunk or Treat - October 2020

About 50+ cars drove through our Trunk or Treat to receive a prepackaged treat and see all our 30 hosts who decorated their very own car trunks with family-friendly Halloween decor! This event was a treat!



Family Advent Celebration - November 2020

Families of all ages were welcomed outdoors in the WPC Courtyard for an afternoon filled with Advent Wreath Making, Christmas Cookie Decorating and our tradition of the 12 Days of Christmas Service. Our Praise Band provided music and the courtyard was decorated for the Christmas Season.



Hybrid Kids Fellowship Club (KFC) "3,2,1...Reach!" March 2021



KFC Planning Team and Student Leaders hosted this successful program! We had a total of 19 children register and 16 student leaders. This 4-week session featured a hybrid of activities; crafts, music, games, chapel time and snack. Children joined us on campus as well as via Zoom.

Palm Sunday Picnic/Egg Hunt - March 2021



We welcomed 60 to 70 people on campus for

our Palm Sunday Picnic hosted by CFM HS Volunteer Team with support of CLC committee. This event was filled with fun activities such as crafts, service projects for Westminster Free Clinic and a cake walk! For our Easter Egg Hunt, we welcomed 30+ children on to our campus ages ranging from infants to 5th graders.

"Building up Love!" Kids Fellowship Club - April/May 2021

Building Up Love! Join us every Tuesday, April 20th-May 4th from 4:00pm-6:00pm for a mini-Kids Fellowship Club session. We'll be gathering in-person outdoors here at WPC campus and offering grab and go bags for those who may not be able to attend/not comfortable for in-person. We'll be learning how to build our faith deeper, working hard to build up others, creating ways to build the



Prayer and Contemplation

Our Labyrinth continues to be a treasure we wish to share by gathering every month for prayer and contemplation as a group, however we can. Our hope is that we can schedule a time where many have the opportunity to come and pray for whatever is on their hearts, privately or aloud, with others who have a similar need. The Lord hears us always and wants to know that we consider prayer a priority. When we set this schedule up, feel free to join the group anytime.

We are thankful to Pastor Dave for providing our Neighborhood Stories during the time of Lent. He and Catherine invited others to share in this, and certainly we were all blessed by the meditations during that season.

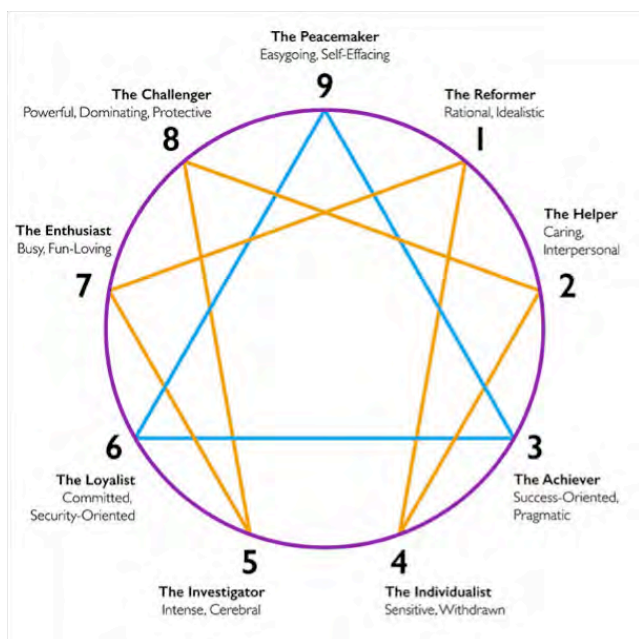
Lastly, we welcome Reinhard Denke to our team and appreciate the time and effort he has given to our film program, using his knowledge and gifts in this area. Those who have known him as usher will be glad he has been willing to support us also as a deacon and member of the communication team.

Always feel free to contact Catherine, Ruth, Jean, Jo, or Reinhard with your questions about ACF

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Our Adult Christian Formation team has over the past months worked to provide offerings during our time away from campus. Currently, we continue to have our film discussions over Zoom and welcome all who are interested to join us. We have had conversations over *The Blind Side*, *The Green Book*, *A Beautiful Life in the Neighborhood*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Invictus*. Understanding the nature of racism, relationships, our own vulnerabilities, the blessings of others, the strength of the human spirit and what love means are just a few topics we have

shared together over dinner on Zoom. Look for more titles and films outdoors on campus as we start to gather in person, the discussions are extremely engaging and thought provoking.



We are also very excited about the new “Engaging in the Enneagram” program launched by Hailey and Catherine this spring. They plan to gather in person safely and share what it means to have different gifts and strengths, and how to share them willingly with others. Anyone interested in joining this group can check the weekly or contact Catherine for more information.



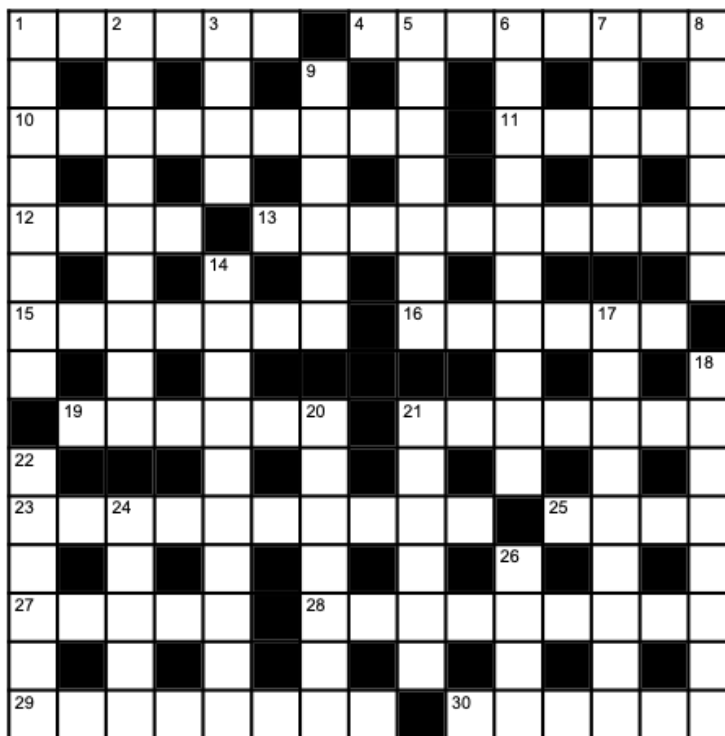
BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
 4 Seemed (8)
 10 New Testament book (9)
 11 Unit of length (5)
 12 '...it is a ____ thing
 the king requireth'
 (Dan 2:11) (4)
 13 Contemplation (10)
 15 Abigail supplied David
 with one hundred
 clusters of these (7)
 16 A son of King David (6)
 19 Concurred (6)
 21 Light sources (7)
 23 Propitiations (10)
 25 A false god (4)
 27 Gather (5)
 28 Abimelech was hit by
 this (9)
 29 Instructors (8)
 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal
 workers (8)
 2 Inspiring (9)
 3 Compass point (4)
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

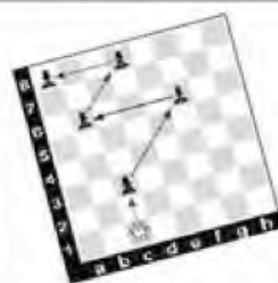
© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah
 said not to listen to
 these (10)
 7 Jewish leader (5)
 8 'He is proud, knowing
 nothing, but _____
 about questions and
 strifes of words...'
 (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
 9 Bread makers (6)
 14 In this year of King
 Nebuchadrezzar's reign,
 Nebuzaradan arrived in
 Jerusalem (10)
 17 Ancient city of Og, King
 of Bashan (9)
 18 Stringed instrument (8)
 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
 21 Tiny amount (6)
 22 Jesus did this with
 authority (6)
 24 Last letter of the Greek
 alphabet (5)
 26 Province of the Roman
 Empire (4)

PUZZLE OF THE DAY



The queen must capture all of the pawns without moving to an empty square.



QUEEN

A queen moves horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, in any direction. It can get rid of all five pawns by moving up, then diagonally up and right, then left, then diagonally up and right, and finally, left. Five pawns, five moves. An efficient way to describe this is by writing the moves out like this:

c3 f6 b6 d8 a8

More from MATCH Curriculum www.chesscurriculum.io

Get more Pawn Mower Puzzles [on Amazon](#)



Arch Street, with a view of Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. Drawn, engraved & Published by W. Birch & Son, 1799. (Pearl ID: 4183)

Presbyterianism in a wide sense is the system of church government by representative assemblies called presbyteries, in opposition to government by bishops (Episcopal system), or by congregations (congregationalism). In its strict sense, Presbyterianism is the name given to one of the groups of ecclesiastical bodies that represent the features of Protestantism emphasized by French lawyer John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that came before him. The most important standards of orthodox Presbyterianism are the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms of 1647. The chief distinctive features set forth in the Westminster declarations of belief are Presbyterian church government, Calvinistic theology, and the absence of prescribed forms of worship. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation.

Presbyterians were among the earliest Reformed immigrants to America. They settled up and down the East Coast, and began to push westward into the American wilderness, founding congregations as early as the 1630s. In 1706, seven Presbyterian ministers formed the first Presbyterian presbytery in the New World. The clergy assumed the freedom to organize and the right to worship, preach, teach, and administer the sacraments. Growing population and immigration prompted the presbytery to organize a synod in 1717, with four constituent presbyteries.

The church began to develop its own indigenous leadership and educational, mission, and charitable institutions, as well as to experience its first internal conflicts. Presbyterians were only one of the reformed denominations that dominated American colonial life at the time of the Revolutionary War. Presbyterians participated in the writing of state and national constitutions.

Reformed views of God's sovereignty and of human sinfulness moved the new nation toward checks and balances and separation of powers. Independence forced adjustment in church as well as government structures. In 1788, the synod met in Philadelphia to form the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA). It adopted a constitution that included a form of government, a directory of worship, and subscription to the Westminster Confession and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. In 1789, the General Assembly held its first meeting in Philadelphia. In the early years of the 1800s, the church carried on revivals and organized congregations, presbyteries, and synods wherever they went, emphasizing the connectional nature of the church. Presbyterians helped as well to shape voluntary societies to encourage educational, missionary, evangelical, and reforming work. As the church began to realize that these functions were corporate in nature and as the century proceeded, it formed its own boards and agencies to address these needs at home and abroad. Mission to Native Americans, African Americans, and populations all over the world became a hallmark of the church.

The nineteenth century was also characterized by disagreement and division over theology, governance, and reform—particularly slavery. The century saw the formation of additional denominations, such as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the United Presbyterian Church of North America. When the country could not reconcile the issue of slavery and the federal union, the southern Presbyterians split from the PCUSA, forming the PCCSA in 1861, which became the Presbyterian Church in the United States. The themes of the late nineteenth and all of the twentieth century are many. To be Presbyterian is to be ecumenical, and the church participated in the many organizations such as the Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the World holding the Presbyterian System (which became the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in 1970 and then in 2010 joined with the Reformed Ecumenical Council to

form the World Communion of Reformed Churches), the Federal Council of Churches and its successor, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and the Consultation on Church Union succeeded by Churches Uniting in Christ.

This era also saw an amazing growth and decline of foreign mission work and controversy and division over worship and the confessions. Women's issues, civil rights and other social justice issues, and service to diverse congregations, including Korean Americans, were also significant in the life of the church. Reorganization and loss of membership characterized this period as well.

Presbyterian denominations in the United States have split and parts have reunited several times. Currently the largest group is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which has its national offices in Louisville, KY. It was formed in 1983 as a result of reunion between the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS), the "southern stream," and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA), the "northern stream." The UPCUSA was formed by the merger (1958) of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, descending from the Philadelphia presbytery of 1706, and the United Presbyterian Church of North America, which had been constituted (1858) by a union of two older churches. Other Presbyterian churches in North America include: the Presbyterian Church in America, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada.