

# WEST SIDE

Presbyterian Church

Weekly Newsletter

Easter 2019

**WEST SIDE IS A WELCOMING CHURCH,  
ROOTED DEEPLY IN CHRIST,  
INVITING ALL TO CONNECT,  
GROW AND SERVE.**

## Pastor Marc's Top 6 Reasons to be Excited About West Side

**1. Sunday Night Live!** Once a month our teens are getting together at the Barn and having a blast—singing and playing with a live band, playing fun games, connecting with one another in small groups and growing in their faith. It's a safe space where they can escape from the stress of the school and be themselves. (Speaking of stress, we're hosting a seminar for parents called Kids Under Pressure on May 5. Check it out at [westside.org](http://westside.org).)

**2. WE@WestSide.** LGBTQ+ author and activist Justin Lee spent an evening with us in March thanks to the efforts of the Welcoming Everyone at West Side Committee. Through Justin's sharing of his journey as a devout evangelical who discovered himself to be gay, we learned a lot—about the LGBTQ+ community and ourselves. May the conversation continue.

**3. Sharing.** Our focus on mental health this Lenten season has made many of us more vulnerable and willing to share. Through our Daily Devotionals, small groups, newsletter articles and moments for mission, the heart of our community is opening up. It's a messy process, but critical for us to become more authentic and connected with one another.

**4. Home Communion.** Tomorrow the Deacons will be bringing communion to homebound members and friends of West Side. And it won't just be a "drop and go." They'll be celebrating the sacrament of communion, bringing the love and presence of Christ into people's homes.

**5. Our Commitment to Mission.** This past year we gave away more than \$161,000 to our mission partners—New York City Relief, Eva's Village, Family Promise, New City Kids and more—an increase of nearly \$72,000 over 2017! This incredible number represents the second largest yearly amount of mission giving at West Side since the fire in 2002.

**6. Livestreaming.** Every Sunday, about 40 families visit our website at 10:15 am and worship via livestream. A growing number of people are watching concerts and memorial services online too. That's why we've invested in a new audio-visual system for the Sanctuary, which should be up and running today.

Thank you so much for your generous support of West Side. We can't do any of this without you, and I remain grateful to serve as your pastor. —*Pastor Marc*



PASTOR MARC OEHLER

# Welcome to West Side!

**West Side is a welcoming church, rooted deeply in Christ,  
inviting all to connect, grow and serve.**

That's our vision statement, and we live it every day. We look forward to helping you connect with others, grow more deeply in your faith and enrich your own life by serving others. Wherever you are on life's journey, there's a place for you at West Side.

We invite you to experience all that West Side Presbyterian Church has to offer:

- Three Sunday worship services—Chapel at 8:15 am, Contemporary at 9:00 am and Traditional at 10:15 am
- A vibrant Sunday School program—called “Orange”—for Pre-K through 7th grade, which combines the light of the church (yellow) with the heart of the family (red) to help lead children toward a lifelong faith in Christ (orange)
- Weekly/monthly programs for middle school and high school youth
- Service opportunities—a chance for you to “give back” to the community
- Social events for every age—from toddler on up
- Spiritual Growth classes for adults
- A choir for just about anyone who loves to sing
- West Side Nursery School—a leader in early childhood education for more than 50 years

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you personally about the exciting things happening at West Side...and how you can use your gifts to make a difference.

Rev. Marc Oehler, Pastor



Dear Friend,

Take a good look at the people sitting around you this morning. **One in five of the people you see is living with a mental illness.** Young. Old. Rich. Poor. Mental illness doesn't discriminate.

Consider these sobering statistics:

- 90% of those who die by suicide have an **underlying mental illness.**
- 50% percent of all chronic mental illness **begins by age 14.**
- The gap between the onset of symptoms and treatment is **8 to 10 years.**
- 25% of people don't seek treatment for a mental illness **due to the cost.**

This Lenten season, we are challenging the congregation to raise **\$71,000 to help those in our community who cannot afford critical mental health services.** \$46,000 (**\$1,000 x 40** days of Lent + **6** Sundays or "Little Easters" = **\$46,000**) will go to West Bergen Mental Healthcare and \$25,000 to our mission partners who minister to the vulnerable.

"As part of our core mission, we provide care for clients without regard for their ability to pay," said Michael Tozzoli, chief executive officer of West Bergen, "so parents don't have to choose between feeding their family and getting help for their child." The agency offers a reduced fee, sliding scale payment option, which allows clients to pay what they can afford. Currently, about one-third of clients utilize the sliding fee scale, paying an average of \$18 per visit...and leaving West Bergen to fill the gap.

**Our campaign to help fill the gap ends today.** Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this important cause. You may place a pew envelope in the offering plate when it passes by, or you can give online at [westside.org](http://westside.org). Simply click "Donate Now" on the navigation bar. (The WSPC Guest WiFi password is [narthex1](http://narthex1).)

Thank you for your support! God bless and Happy Easter!

Anna Levy, Co-Chair Mission and Social Concerns

John Lescroart, Co-Chair Mission and Social Concerns

Rev. Penny Hogan, Associate Pastor

# West Side Presbyterian Church

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