

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, June 23, 2019

10:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR THE DAY

“For the possibility of the impossible does not describe the dominion of what is, but of what calls. It does not articulate what is there, but something soliciting what is there, groaning and sighing for birth, something that longs to happen, a dangerous possibility endangering what is and the powers that be... So if in a poetics someone walks on water or is raised from the dead, that is not supposed to send the physicists and the biologists scurrying back to their computers to crunch their numbers once again to check this out, but to send our hearts soaring with a desire beyond desire for transformation, renewal, rebirth, for which we pray and weep. The world is what is there; the kingdom is what calls, or is called for, or calls us.”

—John D. Caputo, *The Weakness of God*

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PREPARING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRELUDE “God Lead Us Along” arr. Harlan

* CALL TO WORSHIP *from Deuteronomy 6, the shema prayer*

Leader: Hear, O Israel,

People: **the Lord is our God, the Lord is one.**

Leader: Blessed is God’s Kingdom forever and ever.

All: **Let us worship God.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 307 CWM RHONDDA

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our King, you created us and sustained us, yet we constantly turn from you. Forgive us when we attempt to make you in our image; forgive us when we look to earthly rulers for the comfort which only you can offer; forgive us when we trust in other gods for our security. Fulfill your purpose in us that we may be your people. Grant us the wisdom to follow you and the faithfulness to trust your word. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Rising K5 & 1st Graders are invited to Children’s Church.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 6:2-8 O.T., p. 46

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Samuel 8 O.T., p. 218

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Leigh Stuckey

“Told You So”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER *Hymn No. 288*

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

OFFERING

Offertory Psalm 139 arr. Pote

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures

here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son

and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 315 NEW DIMENSIONS

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Hymn No. 582* Vasile

“Glory to God”

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

* POSTLUDE

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHER: Bryant Puntch
SPONSOR: Michael Hoffman
GREETERS: Elizabeth McElveen, Talitha Allen
Philip Land
LITURGIST: Mary Kathleen Duncan
LAY READER: Jade Fountain
ACOLYTES: Madeline Barker, Anna Puntch

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link “Worship via Live Streaming.”

CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist

Summer Choir

Judy McKenney, directing

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During worship, children in rising K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children’s Church in Room 206.

GRAB A NAMETAG

THIS SUNDAY!

We will continue to wear nametags each Sunday. Please find them near entrances and gathering areas and share your name with others. You’ll be glad you did!

CELEBRATING

BARBARA STOOP

- Monday, June 24 church dinner at 5:45 pm
- Sunday, June 30 Barbara’s last Sunday at Westminster

Barbara’s ministry at Westminster has touched all of our lives. Join us in celebrating her thirty-one years at Westminster Presbyterian.

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, June 1, 2019, *Caroline Stoddard* and *Stephen Astemborski* were united in marriage at Our Lady of the Rosary.

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, June 15, 2019, *Mary Reed* and *Scott Moss* were united in marriage at Westminster.

GREENVILLE LITERACY

Westminster is a collection site again this year for “*The Really Good, Really Big, Really Cheap Book Sale.*” Businesses and individuals are asked to donate new or used books in good condition to the Book Sale. The collection bin is located by the office entrance. Deadline for drop off is **July 26**. For more information and **a listing of items that are and are not accepted**, visit www.greenvilleliteracy.org.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Get your day started right with the “*It’s Never Too Early to Talk About Jesus*” study and discussion group, meeting again **Tuesday, June 25, at 6:30 a.m.** in the **Women’s Lounge**. This semester we are studying Lee Hull Moses’s book, More Than Enough: Living Abundantly In a Culture of Excess. Questions? Contact *Kathleen Reynolds* (kathleenmreynolds@yahoo.com, 346-3155) or Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Women of Westminster offer scholarships to provide financial aid among our college and graduate student membership. Any Westminster member who will be furthering their education in the fall is eligible to apply. Applications are available from the church office or online at www.wpc-online.org. Applicants may contact *LeAnne White* (leannejw@charter.net) with any questions. **The deadline is Friday, June 28, 2019.** Church members are reminded that memorials and donations may be designated to this scholarship fund to aid in its continuation.

YOUNGISH ADULTS

Join us **Monday, July 8, at 11:30 a.m.** for **Top Golf** (201 Clifton Acres). Space is limited so reserve your spot today by contacting Leigh (lstuckey@wpc-online.org).

FOSTER CARE INTEREST MEETING

Sunday, June 23 at 5:00 p.m.

Fourth Presbyterian Church
(703 E. Washington St., Greenville)

Foster Care at Thornwell - The Need Is Great

Last year, there were over 4,700 children in Foster Care in South Carolina - over 2,000 in the Upstate. There are more foster children in the system than there are foster homes. These are children that face growing up without the love of a stable home and the support of a local community. If you feel a tug at your heart to find out more, please attend this meeting. For information, contact Jon Sampson (864-735-8509 or jonathon.sampson@thornwell.org) or Thornwell (888-310-9387).

VBS 2019

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

This summer's Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it!

Monday, August 5 - Friday, August 9
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sign up soon so we will know who is coming!
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/wpcvbs19>

Classes for ages having completed 4K-5th grades and volunteer opportunities for all ages.

JUMPAHEAD

With the start of our summer worship schedule of one worship service at **10:00 a.m.**, the children at Westminster will **"jump ahead"** a grade for the summer months. Among other things, this means that those currently in 4K Sunday School will begin attending the first part of the worship service with their families, then will leave with one of the ministers for Children's Church. This also means that those finishing 1st grade will no longer attend Children's Church and will begin staying through the entire service. Look for backpacks for the rising 4K group available in the Sanctuary Atrium this Sunday, June 23, and children's worship packets for the older children to aid their worship experience.

ADULT GROUPS

Luncheon Group: Will meet **Wednesday, June 26, at noon in Room 211.** Group Leader: *Mary Ann Cox* (1maryanncox@gmail.com).

THE HARBINGER
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

2310 Augusta Road
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424

www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160) Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Road, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

CHURCH STAFF

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FIND WPC ONLINE

Visit us online to find up-to-date photos, videos and information about our programming:
<http://www.wpc-online.org>.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 23 - 29, 2019

SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Youth Cuba trip meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:15 a.m. After Worship Fellowship
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

- 5:45 p.m. Barbara Stoop's Retirement Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. NAMI
- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

- 6:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. AI-Anon

WEDNESDAY

- Senior High Youth to Cuba*
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon Group Meeting

THURSDAY

- Senior High Youth to Cuba*
- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY

- Senior High Youth to Cuba*
- 6:30 p.m. Middler Movie Night

SATURDAY

- Senior High Youth to Cuba*

THE SESSION

The Class of 2020

<i>Ben Alexander</i>	<i>Michael Hoffman</i>
<i>Rita Barker</i>	<i>Steve Johnson</i>
<i>Roxanne Cromartie</i>	<i>Coleman Kirven</i>
<i>Becca Donohue</i>	<i>Christa Likes</i>
<i>Lee Freeman</i>	<i>Jon McKnight</i>
<i>Mike Hall</i>	<i>Parks McLeod</i>

The Class of 2021

<i>Kristin Burrell</i>	<i>Elizabeth McElveen</i>
<i>Phillip Cox</i>	<i>Grier Mullins</i>
<i>Ted Gentry</i>	<i>Pete Roe</i>
<i>Philip Land</i>	<i>Gaye Sprague</i>
<i>Brad Lucas</i>	<i>Catherine Pollock</i>
<i>David Massey</i>	<i>Freddie Williams</i>

The Class of 2022

<i>Talitha Allen</i>	<i>Michael Dixon</i>
<i>Sarah Beasley</i>	<i>Ben Edwards</i>
<i>Brian Blount</i>	<i>Ashley Gettys</i>
<i>Scott Clark</i>	<i>Anna Hanor</i>
<i>Brandon Coker</i>	<i>Susan Jones</i>
<i>Bob Dellert</i>	<i>Becky Warth</i>



A few weeks ago, there was a Star Wars marathon on television. My husband, Freddie, recorded a conversation between Yoda and Anakin that he wanted me to watch again from "Revenge of the Sith." Yoda advises, "Careful you must be when sensing the future Anakin. The fear of loss is the path to the dark side... Attachment leads to jealousy, the shadow of greed that is. Train yourself to let go of everything you fear to lose."

Freddie is a much bigger Star Wars fan than I am, but I can appreciate the metaphors and lessons in life that can be extracted from the story. As I listened to Yoda's words, I thought about how we can so easily let fear of not being in control lead our actions. How tempting it is to convince ourselves that we can be in total control of what happens here on earth. But just as Yoda urges Anakin to let go of everything he fears to lose, Psalm 2 conveys a similar message. It explains to us that no group of men together could ever be more powerful than the Lord – that whether we are alone or with others, we cannot change what God has planned.

So, no matter how hard we want to try to control what is happening in our lives, we must realize that we need to "let go" and trust that God has a plan. God ultimately knows what is best for each one of us. As Psalm 2 concludes, "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him."

In the scripture reading this week, God demonstrates that we can count on him to be there for us. By vowing to release the Israelites from the Egyptians and giving them the land he promised, we can see that if we believe and trust in him, God will fulfill his promises to us.

When we let go of the fear and desire for control, we open ourselves up for God to work through us. Only then can we find true peace within. And once we find that peace with God, we can focus on serving others rather than ourselves.

I challenge each of us this week to become aware of an aspect of our life that we are trying to control. Then pray to God that he will help us let go and allow his plan to lead the way. Although it may seem daunting to willingly relinquish all control, by letting go of one aspect at a time, we will gradually have a life fully guided by God.

Tiffany Williams