

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 12, 2026 |On Demand on YouTube|9a & 11:15a



Second Sunday of Easter Preparation for Worship

“Resurrection—not progress, not evolution, not enlightenment, but a call from heaven to us: ‘Rise up! You are dead, but I will give you life.’ That is what is proclaimed here, and it is the only way that the world can be saved. Take away this summons, and make something else of it, something smaller, less than the absolute ultimate, or less than the absolutely powerful, and you have taken away all, the unique, the last hope there is for us on earth.”

Karl Barth

Gathering and Preparing for **God’s Word**

Welcome and Announcements

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

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Prelude *I Know that My Redeemer Lives* Held

* Call to Worship Psalm 118:1, 1 Peter 1:3

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

People: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope.

People: **Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 245 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" LLANFAIR

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you are strength for those who believe, hope for those who doubt, and mercy for all who fall short.

Forgive us for placing our trust in the tangible, the reasonable, and the status quo.

We have failed to serve the vulnerable.

We have refused to reach out to the repugnant.

We have lived within our own bubbles, and pretended to love all.

Let your compassion wash over us, and may your grace give us courage.

Help us to serve the poor with humility, to see our own poverty with clarity,

and to rejoice in the good news that the risen Christ is among us even now.

It is in his holy name that we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

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

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

* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 GLORIA PATRI

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism 9a Gardner Lewis Rupert

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *John 20:1-10* p. 882

Second Scripture Lesson, *John 20:11-29* p. 882

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Those Who Have Not Seen"

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.

Ordination and Installation of Elders 11:15a

Presentation of Candidates

For Ordination and Installation

Brooke Culclasure Mason Donlan Ragan Kirven
Jennifer McDavid Josh Riley Jennifer Shurley
Clay Smoak Whit Walker

For Installation

Christopher Carsten Trey DuBose Jason Farmer
Nancy Giguere Judy O'Neal Josie Williams

Leader: There are varieties of gifts.

People: **But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

Leader: There are different ways of serving God.

People: **But it is the same Lord who is served.**

Leader: God works through each person in a unique way.

People: **But it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.**

Leader: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

People: **Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.**

Statement on Ordination & Installation

Constitutional Questions

Laying on of Hands & Prayer

Charge & Welcome

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory 9a *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* arr. Aarons

Offertory 11:15a *I Heard the Voice Of Jesus Say* arr. Pederson

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 733 "We Are All One in Mission" ES FLOG EIN KLEIN WALDWÖGELEIN

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* Mitchell-Wallace/Head

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Mike Peters (9a), Claire Gilliland (11:15a), *sponsors*

Kim Kent (9a), Dorothy Dowe (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Tom Vanderbloemen, *trumpet*

Ben Bloodworth (11:15a), *cello*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Chancel Choir (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

George Howell (9a), John Paylor, Jr (11:15a), *head ushers*

Walker Miller, Bill Ballinger, Tony Threatt,

Jennifer Shurley, Nancy Johnson (9a), *greeters*

Josh Riley Jason Farmer, Creighton Likes,

Chris Carsten, Carrie Marguet (11:15a), *greeters*

Julia Mowlajko, Luke Pruitt (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caregiver and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

CHORAL AND VOCAL TEXTS

Choral and vocal texts for worship services may be found via the Harbinger Hub QR code.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Gardner Lewis Rupert, son of Perry & Grace Rupert.

In Memoriam

Bettie Runion

(9/6/1936 - 4/4/2026)

"I am the resurrection and the life."

- John 11:25

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, April 15, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a on Sunday, April 19. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

GIVING TO WPC

Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge or give an unpledged gift to Westminster online? Your gift helps our church keep faith with community partners and maintain excellence in our programming. To learn more about online giving, or to make a gift, follow the prompts by using the new Harbinger Hub QR code.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING LUNCHEON

Ladies of Westminster are invited to our Annual Spring Gathering on Sunday, April 26, at 12:15p in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served and we will honor our new Honorary Life Members for 2026. We will have Leda Young from Pleasant Valley Connection as our guest speaker. Signups are located in the Harbinger Hub QR code.

CREATION STEWARDSHIP GROUP AND THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Creation Stewardship Group and the Theology Reading Group will meet jointly in the Charter Room on Monday, April 20 at 7p.m. Bill Holt will lead the discussion of *We Will Be Jaguars: A Memoir of My People*, by Nemonte Nenquimo and Mitch Anderson. "From a fearless, internationally acclaimed activist comes an impassioned memoir about an Indigenous childhood, a clash of cultures, and the fight to protect the Amazon rainforest." (from Publisher's description) Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a lunch group for singles and couples, will meet at Stella's Southern Bistro (684 Fairview Rd) on Sunday, April 19, at 12:45p. RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, April 17. Newcomers are always welcome!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FEASIBILITY SURVEY

If you have already completed a survey for our Capital Campaign Feasibility study, thank you! If you haven't completed a survey yet, we welcome your voice! You may complete the survey through the link in the Harbinger Hub QR code or you may pick up a paper copy in the church office. One survey per household. The deadline to complete a survey is Monday, April 13.

SABBATICAL FOR LAUREN SLINGERLAND

Associate Pastor for Children, Lauren Slingerland, will be on Sabbatical May 4-July 27. Sabbatical enables pastors to be renewed through the vital pursuit of continuing education, extended time spent in spiritual formation, and fresh mentoring by respected teachers. Lauren plans to connect with influential mentors, family, and nature during her sabbatical and she looks forward to returning with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Contact: Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).
- Circle 3, at the home of Pat Jenkins (10 Capers St) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, April 19, at 12:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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THE HARBINGER
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Ben Dorr
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Leigh Stuckey
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Lauren Slingerland
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Cara Puntch
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Laura Williams Sanders
Business Administrator
laura@wpc-online.org

Lynn Bennett
Financial Manager
lbennett@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Rescheduled
HERITAGE LECTURE
Dr. Yolanda Pierce
Sunday, August 9
Details to follow.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
April 12-19, 2026

Sunday, April 12
Second Sunday of Easter
8:15a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 Worship Service
Creation Stewardship Meeting
Education Committee Meeting
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
Confirmation Class #5
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service - Ordination & Installation of Elders
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middlers Youth Group
Senior High Youth Group

Monday, April 13
10:00a Staff Meeting
4:30p Game Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 14
12:00p Al-Anon
2:00 Circle 3
4:30 Weekday School Committee Meeting
6:00 Circle 7

Wednesday, April 15
12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
2:30 It's Elementary!
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16
10:00a Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, April 19
Third Sunday of Easter
9:00 Worship Service
New Member Class
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p New Member Reception
12:30 Baptism Class
12:45 Connections Group
3:00 Chorister Spring Program
5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals
NO WPCYG DINNER/MEETINGS

HARBINGER HUB:
ALL THE LINKS FROM TODAY'S HARBINGER IN ONE PLACE.

Scan the QR code to explore and engage with this week's bulletin. You'll find links to events, registrations, ministries, and opportunities to grow and connect within Westminster.



the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIX | April 12, 2026 | No. 2

From the Pews, Lindsey Donlan

Doubt is something all of us can relate to. We doubt our abilities. We doubt our decisions. Sometimes, we even doubt our faith. And the truth is - that's natural. It's part of being human.

I recently listened to a podcast that talked about how our minds tend to drift toward negative thoughts. It said that 70% of our thoughts each day can lean negative. When you hear that, it's no wonder doubt finds its way in so easily. It takes real intention to think differently - to choose hope, to hold onto truth, and to keep our faith steady.

In John 20:19-29, we see that even the disciples struggled. The resurrection was something they had hoped for, but it still felt hard to fully grasp. Jesus first appeared to ten of the disciples and His words were simple, "Peace be with you." Even in their uncertainty, He met them with peace. And they believed - but Thomas wasn't there.

When the others shared the news with Thomas, he just couldn't quite accept it. He said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Because of this, Thomas is often labeled "Doubting Thomas." But if we pause for a moment... Can we really blame him? Can we see a bit of ourselves in him?

Imagine being in his shoes - living through everything they had just experienced. The uncertainty, grief and confusion. Would we have believed right away? Or would we have needed to see it for ourselves too?

We've all heard the phrase, "seeing is believing." It's how we are wired. We want proof. We want certainty. We want something we can hold on to. But faith doesn't always work that way. Faith is believing even when we cannot see.

Jesus met the disciples where they were - giving them what they needed to believe. And in his grace, He came back for Thomas, too. He didn't dismiss his doubt. He didn't turn him away. He met him right in it. And then Jesus says something that reaches all the way to us today: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

We are the ones who haven't seen - and yet are called to believe. And in that, there is a blessing. There is an assurance that Jesus is still with us, still present, still meeting us in our lives today.

The truth is, we will continue to have doubts - moments where questions feel louder than our faith, moments where we aren't sure what to believe or how to move forward. And that's okay. Because doubt isn't the end of faith - it's where faith begins to grow deeper. In those moments, we don't have to figure it out on our own. We can lean into our faith. We can lean on one another. We can lean into the strength of our church community that walks alongside us.

Through the questions, through the uncertainty, through the doubt - our faith can be strengthened.

Vacation Bible School 2026 – Registration is Open!

Registration is now open for this year's Vacation Bible School! Join us June 8-12, 2026, from 9am-12pm for Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, a week centered on Psalm 104. Throughout the week, children will explore what all living things need to live - shelter, food, water, air, and community - and learn how God calls us to show compassion to one another and care for the living earth. Vacation Bible School is open to children who will be grades K5-5th during the 2026-27 school year. Each day will include Bible stories, crafts, music, and hands-on activities that help kids grow in faith while learning to care for God's creation. Register today on the Harbinger Hub to reserve your child's spot. We look forward to a wonderful week together!

Volunteers are still needed! Whether you can serve all week or just a few days, your time and gifts will make a lasting impact on our children. Simply fill out the volunteer interest form located in the Harbinger Hub QR code, and someone from the Children's Ministry will be in touch.

Adult Sunday School

Jesus' Final Days and His First: Holy Week and the Days after the Resurrection
Led by Leigh Stuckey
Room 209 and Streaming

In preparation for the Easter Season, this lecture-style class will embark on a study of various events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and following his resurrection. Texts include the death of Lazarus, the triumphal entries, Jesus' anointing and Judas's betrayal, the preaching women at the tomb, "doubting" Thomas, and the day at the seashore.

Discussion Sunday School Class:
Led by Molly Rubin - 4/12
Room 211

Join us each week for a discussion-based Sunday School class to dive into a weekly topic and scripture passage. All are welcome to join us on a journey of faith and fellowship - come every week or come when you can. Topics change every week, and the class is facilitated by rotating members. Past topics include online influencers, the rise of AI, the disappearance of Nancy Guthrie and the Buddhist walk for peace.

Join Us for a Creation Care Service on The Lawn

Join us for a peaceful, early-morning Creation Care service as we gather in worship and reflection surrounded by God's creation. This lay-led, interfaith service is a collaborative effort among Greenville faith communities, bringing together voices across traditions in shared care for the Earth.

Theme: Walking Gently on the Earth
When: Sunday, April 26, 2026
8:00-8:30 AM
Where: The Lawn at
Fourth Presbyterian Church
703 E Washington St, 29601
(green space adjacent to the church campus)

This outdoor service will include scripture readings, prayer, reflection, and music, offering a meaningful and grounding start to your day. The service will be standing, though attendees are welcome to bring a folding chair if desired. A wheelchair-accessible route is available. Following the service, all are invited to remain for a brief time of fellowship with coffee and light refreshments. To RSVP, email gayesprague@cs.com.

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245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise,
 Je - sus died, our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

733 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.