

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 2, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

It is the aim of this church to present a religion as considerate of persons as the teaching of Jesus, as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets, as responsive to truth as science, as beautiful as art, as intimate as the home, and as indispensable as the air we breathe.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH
CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I trust in your steadfast love, O Lord.
People: My heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
Leader: I will sing to the Lord,
People: For God has dealt bountifully with me.
Leader: Let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 305 DARWALL'S 148th
'Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!'

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Merciful God, when the busyness of our lives erodes the intentions of our hearts, we ask your forgiveness. Often our personal agendas take precedence over reaching out to others. We put off the things we ought to do, and only half listen to those who cry out to be fully heard. We resist change, knowing that our acting and our thinking are limited by our focus on ourselves. Gracious God, forgive us for our past faults, and help us to be more attentive to the world and the people around us. Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit so we might better follow your will, in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

* 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.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal page 35, Traditional
K5 and first grade children leave for Children's Church following the prayer.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

* HYMN No. 39 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' FAITHFULNESS
FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (Page 42)

Beri Draganic

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — James 1:1-27 (Page 228)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON Barbara Stoop
'Strained but Unstained'

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* 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; 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.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory 'Simple Gifts' Copland

* 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. 295 SINE NOMINE

'Go to the World!'

* BENEDICTION
* POSTLUDE 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee' arr. Phillips

*All who are able may stand
HEAD USHER: Keith Stevenson
SPONSOR: Jon McKnight
GREETERS: Gaye Sprague, Beri Draganic, Susan McLeod
LITURGIST: Leigh Stuckey
ACOLYTE: Caroline Thomasson

Visitors and members are invited to the Sanctuary Atrium following the worship service for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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
Katie Knauer, soprano

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 the worship service, children in rising K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206. The leaders for Children's Church this Sunday, September 2 are Parker & Brandi Ariail.

NURSERY

PARENT SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2

Crawler Pierce & Micah Williams
K3 Hastings & Kristen Blumer

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our summer schedule of one worship service at 10:00 a.m. (with no Sunday School) will conclude Sunday, September 2. On Sunday, September 9, we will kick off our new Sunday School year with a breakfast at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and worship at 11:15 a.m. The following Sunday, September 16, we will resume our regular schedule of 9:00 a.m. worship, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, and 11:15 a.m. worship.

HEALTH MINISTRY

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this Sunday, September 2. The screenings will take place in the Friendship Court following the 10:00 a.m. service. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact Tim Miller at 627-0725.

SIGN UP FOR THE DOMINICAN MISSION TRIP!

Each January adults from Westminster travel to the Dominican Republic for one of our annual mission trips. The trip includes medical and community evangelism components. The 2019 trip will take place from Sunday, January 27-Friday, February 1. To sign up contact the church office. Interested in learning more? Contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Interested in what Women of Westminster are doing? Contact the church office or Katherine Mattice (kmmarketingservices@gmail.com) to be added to the email distribution list to keep up to date with monthly volunteer opportunities in our community and with special events throughout the year!

2018-2019 CHURCH BASKETBALL

Youth ages 5K-12 grade and WPC men are invited to participate in Christian fellowship and recreational basketball for the upcoming season, which will begin the week of November 10. WPC members interested in being a coach or assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (bryant_puntch@ucbi.com or 915-5686). Online player registration will open on Tuesday, September 4 and end Sunday, October 7. Registration and schedules may be accessed on the church's website at www.wpc-online.org (https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/youth-basketball/).

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

Westminster's Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month, in the church library, at 7:00 p.m. On **Tuesday, September 4**, our book will be Lincoln in the Bardo, by George Saunders, a Booker prize winning novel about Abraham Lincoln and the death of his son, with a cast of characters, living and dead in an original, unique novel. For October, the group will read Speak No Evil, by Uzodinma Iweala, a novel about what it means to be different in a conformist society. New members are always welcome.

ADULT GROUPS

• **Hiking Group:** Will meet in the church parking lot on **Saturday, September 8**, at 8:00 a.m. for a hike on the Art Loeb Trail. **Hike Leader:** *Buffie Taylor* (ehtaylor87@gmail.com).

MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will begin their new book study on **Monday, September 10**, at 6:00 p.m. in **Room 209-C**. We will study the book, Mere Christianity, by C.S. Lewis. All WPC men are invited to participate. For more information, contact *Rick Carpenter* (608-1881).

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, September 11**, at 6:00 a.m. in the **Women's Lounge**. This semester we will study Rachel Held Evans's New York Times bestseller, A Year of Biblical Womanhood (available in the WPC library). Don't have time for another book? Don't worry, there will be plenty to discuss even if you haven't been able to dig into the text. Questions? Contact *Kathleen Reynolds* (kathleenreynolds@yahoo.com, 346-3155) or Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

From 10–11:00 a.m. each **Thursday** morning during the school year, our church has had a vibrant Bible Study, which will begin again on **September 6** in the **Charter Room**. This fall the Bible study will be taught by our pastors Barbara Stoop and Ben Dorr and we invite all of those, new or old, to join us for this in depth look at our faith. You do not need to sign up ahead of time. Enter the church through the office door at the curved driveway on the W. Augusta Place side of the building. If you have questions or for more information, contact Barbara Stoop at wpc-online.org, or at 864 313-6956.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet **Monday, September 17**, at 7:00 p.m. in the **Charter Room**. Leigh Stuckey will lead the discussion of The Undertaking by Thomas Lynch. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are invited.

CAROLINA HIGH

Keep your eyes open for a new year at Carolina High this year. Details coming soon! If you have not been a part of this outreach and are interested in helping out this year, contact Jennifer Dillard (jdillard@wpc-online.org).

WESTMINSTER MEN'S GROUP FALL MISSION TRIP

October 10-14 at Camp Thornwell
435 Sugar Likker Rd.
Sunset, SC 29685

(Google Maps works with this address!) For more information, email *Paul O'Neal* (paulmoneal@aol.com) or *Jeff Reynolds* (rjreynocu@yahoo.com). The mission this year is extremely important. A large turnout of volunteers will enable success in reaching our goals.

GRAB A NAMETAG THIS SUNDAY!

This will help make the process of learning names and faces easier for our new Senior Pastor Ben Dorr and his wife Heather when they join us in worship. You will find nametags in the following places:

- Sanctuary Atrium in several spots
- Friendship Court
- Entrance Pavilion
- Starting September 9 in the Adult Sunday School classes

THE HARBINGER
 WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH

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

www.wpc-online.org

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CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor	Ben Dorr
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Associate Pastor	Barbara Stoop
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	bstoop@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey
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	lstuckey@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Mary Kathleen Duncan
Phone	283-0092
	mkduncan@wpc-online.org
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Phone	423-0070
	aworkman@wpc-online.org
Pastor Emeritus	Zane Moore
Director of Music	Mark Kemp
	mkemp@wpc-online.org
Children's Choir Coordinator	Kathryn Knauer
	kknauer@wpc-online.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Jennifer Dillard
	jdillard@wpc-online.org
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	nls1949@aol.com
Weekday School Director	Cara Puntch
	cpuntch@wpc-online.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Owens
	sherri@wpc-online.org
Office Manager	Michelle Little
	michelle@wpc-online.org
Secretary	Wendy Bagley
	wendy@wpc-online.org
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman
	jpitman@wpc-online.org
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge
	lisa@wpc-online.org
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips
	stevep30@bellsouth.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2-8, 2018

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 11:00 a.m. After Worship Fellowship
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

Weekday School Closed
Church Office Closed
 6:15 p.m. NAMI
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

6:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 12:00 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting
 Al-Anon Meeting
 Westminster Book Club
 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!" & Tweens begins
 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study
 12:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. Hiking Group

FIND WPC ONLINE

Visit us online to find up-to-date photos, videos and information about our programming:

- http://www.wpc-online.org
- facebook.com/wpcgreenville
- twitter.com/wpcgreenville
- instagram.com/wpcgreenville
- youtube.com/wpcgreenville
- gplus.to/wpc

CHURCHWIDE BREAKFAST

September 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Adults \$7.00 Children (3-11) \$3.00 Children (2 and under) Free

Join us for a great meal at 9:00 a.m. to meet the Dorr family. Our first Sunday School classes of the church calendar year begin at 10:00 a.m. The menu will be biscuits and gravy, eggs, grits, sausage, bacon, and fruit. Nursery will be available for children under three. To keep the check-in lines moving on September 9 we ask that you sign up online and pay online by going to <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/september-9-breakfast-sign-up/>. Sign-ups for breakfast end on **Monday, September 3**. We look forward to seeing you there!



*"In their hearts humans plan their course,
 but the Lord establishes their steps."*

Proverbs 16:9

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
 "plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
 plans to give you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11

"It's the transitions that are the hard parts," she said, "once you actually get there, it's usually fine. It's the getting there that's tough." She should know. She has had transitions in her life – growing up, getting married, moving from place to place, raising children, living a full, engaged life, caring for elderly parents. Ups and downs. When she said that, she was talking specifically about raising children. Actually, she was talking about her child raising a child – her grandchild – which I guess made it different and enabled her to offer that perspective. She could have been talking about anything though.

We are in a sea of constant change as we move through our lives. The transitions are just those times when we happen to notice the change. As she said, in the being there, we are usually fine. Happy and content even.

I like to think of happiness – at least partly – as a choice. There are certainly circumstances that make happiness difficult, if not impossible, to achieve, but overall one's attitude and choice is a tremendous factor in one's happiness. Every day, regardless of the circumstances, you get some say in it.

One of the peculiarities of human consciousness is our awareness of the future. We are mindful that there is time – abstract and unknowable – that we have not yet lived. This future is hard-wired into us and our actions. We plan for it. We anticipate it. We worry about it. We brush our teeth, exercise, save money, check the 7-day weather forecast and buy green bananas. We know it looms out there. For us to have happiness in our lives, we have to believe that the future holds good things for us, those we love and the things we care about. I believe that is something we don't put enough energy into expressing. That at our core, most people believe the future will be good, that things will be better. In the future, when we picture it, the sun's always shining. It's a better day. The change, the transitions that get us there – the cloudy days – those are the hard parts.

Through salvation, God promises us that future. A better day. I would like to challenge you to choose happiness, choose to believe that the future holds better days, that God's love and salvation is the plan set out for you. And that like God's love, the sun is always shining, even behind the clouds.

Scott Clark

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

We at Westminster believe that education is essential for discipleship, and hope that what you learn in this place will transform your living beyond our doors. Each quarter we offer four classes, covering topics that range from theology and Biblical literacy to culture. This quarter kicks off on **Sunday, September 9**, and will run each Sunday **through October 28**. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

1. **Confirmation for Adults**

This class will study the same curriculum our 9th grade confirmation students study each spring. It would be a great experience for parents whose children will go through confirmation anytime in the next few years, but we welcome adults of any stage to refresh their faith by remembering what it means to belong to God and to be Presbyterian!

Teacher: *Mary Kathleen Duncan, is an Associate Pastor at Westminster whose work focuses on the education and spiritual upbringing of youth and their families.*

Room: 209

2. **Wisdom Calls**

This class will study the Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament (the books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes and the Apocryphal books of Sirach and Wisdom of Solomon). In addition to exploring the texts of the books, we will try to apply their lessons to contemporary life using a recent book by Paul Lewis, *Wisdom Calls: The Moral Story of the Hebrew Bible* (available in the WPC library).

Teacher: *David Rutledge, a scholar of religion, is a member of Westminster, who recently retired from Furman University after years of teaching.*

Room: 213

3. **What the Bible Doesn't Say**

Where are all the windows God is opening after closing the door? Or the sins we hate that don't reflect back on the sinner? Did God "say it" so we have to believe it, and does God prefer to help only those who are getting after their own good? This lecture-based class will examine the cultural sayings that have settled into our religious vocabulary. We'll ask what we can learn from popular religion and where we might diverge in our own faithfulness.

Teacher: *Leigh Stuckey, is an Associate Pastor at Westminster who works in education, communication, and mission.*

Room: 211

4. **Visionaries, Idealists, and Creative Geniuses**

What do we know about inspiration? What is a vision? How is relativity inspired? Join this discussion-based class as we explore the creative spark that lies within us all.

Teacher: *Judith Chandler, a member of Westminster, has taught at Furman's Lifelong Learning Institute since its inception. She is also a recognized local artist.*

Room: 210

Sunday School for children and youth will begin on Sunday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m., and classes will be combined differently this year. 2K will meet in Room 108, on our lowest floor, 3K and 4K will meet together in Room 109. 5K and 1st grade will meet together in Room 123. Grades 2 and 3 will meet together in Room 120. Grades 4 and 5 will meet together in Room 118.

Grades 6, 7, and 8 will meet together as a class in the 300 hallway and Grades 9-12 will meet in the Youth Suite.

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