

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Sunday, May 19, 2019
9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation, and the young be inspired, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

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!

PREPARING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRELUDE “This Is My Father’s World” Sheppard

* CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 148*

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
**People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!
Let them praise the name of the Lord.**
Leader: God’s name alone is exalted;
God’s glory is above earth and heaven.
All: Let us worship God!

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 81 AUSTRIAN HYMN
“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Everlasting God, we admit that we see the world with dim eyes, with closed hearts, and with unimaginative faith. We do not expect your Spirit to surprise us, and we do not hope for the gospel to transform us. We have been content with the status quo when it serves us well, and have been fearful about a future that is not in our control. Forgive us, holy God, and feed our souls where we are most in need. Grant us courage to serve our neighbor with humility, to welcome our neighbor with hospitality, and to love our neighbor as Christ first loved us. We ask it all through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.
At the 9:00 a.m. service K5 & 1st Graders are invited to Children’s Church.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 11:15 *Evan David Keable
Kimberly Webb Keable*

Presentation
Questions to the Parents
* Question to the Congregation
Thanksgiving over the Water
Baptism
Prayer
Welcome

At the 11:15 a.m. service K5 & 1st Graders are invited to Children’s Church.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:31-35 N.T., p. 877

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 11:1-18 N.T., p. 895

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Ben Dorr

“No Distinction”

SOLO 9:00 “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” arr. Hayes

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 Fishel

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

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

OFFERING

Offertory 9:00 “Be Thou My Vision” arr. Young

Anthem 11:15 “Zion’s Walls” 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

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS 11:15

* HYMN No. 317 “In Christ There Is No East or West” MCKEE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE “Amen” Keen

* POSTLUDE “Awake the Trumpet’s Lofty Sound” Handel

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHERS: 9:00 a.m. Jason Farmer
11:15 a.m. Todd Hardaway
SPONSOR: Philip Land
GREETERS: 9:00 a.m. Ben Alexander, Mike Hall
Grier Mullins
11:15 a.m. Susan Jones, Sarah Beasley
Brian Blount
LITURGIST: Mary Kathleen Duncan
LAY READERS: 9:00 a.m. Laura Coker
11:15 a.m. LeAnne White
ACOLYTES: 9:00 a.m. Molly Weiss
11:15 a.m. Davis Fairey, Mary Mac Fairey

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 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 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

9:00 a.m.

Jim Wilkins, tenor

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

Derek Pitman, 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!

LET US PRAY FOR:

*Janie Little and family
The Family of Pat Miller
Carl Nuttall and family*

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Carl Nuttall* on the death of his mother, Mary Ann Nuttall, on Thursday, May 9, 2019, in Seneca, SC.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club meets the first Tuesday of most months, at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Library** and welcomes any who would like to join us. Our next meeting will be **June 4** and we will discuss the book, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. This is a murder mystery set on the North Carolina coast in 1969, involving a rumored “Marsh Girl.”

LOW COUNTRY BOIL

Mark your calendars for the annual Low Country Boil on **Sunday, June 2**, from **5-7:00 p.m.** at **Brewery 85** (6 Whitlee Ct, 29607). The event is free and includes tickets for two craft beers or sodas. Make sure to sign up at wpc-online.org.

GET YOUR WPC SWAG!

Updated WPC car magnets are now available in the church office. Pick yours up today (and try not to cut too many people off!). We also have a limited supply of WPC branded insulated grocery totes in the office for a suggested \$5-\$10 donation.

UNITED MINISTRIES

FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is in need of peanut butter, dry milk, and other non-perishable food items. Donations may be left in the labeled cabinets in the Friendship Court.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading group will meet Monday, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Charter Room. We will view a DVD, Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story. All are invited.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Tuesday, May 21 • Circle #7: will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Gaye Sprague (10 Grey St.) Leader: Talitha Allen, bewt29617@bellsouth.net.

YOUNG ADULTS: Save the date for our year-end celebration on Wednesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Blount Home (15 Victory Ave.). We'll discuss one last parable and celebrate the Spring. And don't forget to mark your calendars for the Low Country Boil at Brewery 85 on June 2!

CUBA MISSION TRIP Adults from WPC will travel to Cuba from October 9-16, 2019 to visit our partner church in Unión de Reyes and the Evangelical Seminary in Matanzas. The trip will also include time in Havana. Interested? Contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org) or Charlie LeGrand (clegrand@legrandlaw.com).

CONNECTIONS

Connections, a fellowship group for adults and singles, will meet for lunch at PF Chang's (1127 Woodruff Rd.), on Sunday, May 19, at 1:00 p.m. New participants are welcome. Leader: Gretta Lawson (grettalawson@gmail.com or 430-4008).

ADULT GROUPS

- Needle Arts Group: Will meet Wednesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion. Group Leader: Terry Gentry (tmgentry@charter.net). Luncheon Group: Will meet Wednesday, May 22, at 12:00 p.m. in Room 211. Group Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com). Hiking Group: Will meet Friday, May 24, at 9:00 a.m. in the church parking lot for a hike at Landsford Canal/Rocky Shoals. Hike Leader Anne Holleman (holl2759@att.net).

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.

BARBARA STOOP'S RETIREMENT IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sadly for us, the time has come for Barbara Stoop to retire. We will be celebrating the wonderful ministry of Barbara. Please mark these dates on your calendars:

- Monday, June 24 5:45 p.m. Church dinner celebrating Barbara. We are creating fun activities for all ages in honor of Barbara's ministry. Sign up now at www.wpc-online.org for the June 24 dinner. \$8 for adults and \$5 for children (3 and under) Sunday, June 30 Barbara's last Sunday at Westminster.

For the church dinner, the retirement committee is collecting mementos of Barbara's time at Westminster. Please send in any photos you have and share any special memories. Photos can be dropped off at the church office and will be returned. We will have a table displaying artwork created by Barbara, so if you have anything you can loan us, we would enjoy sharing it with the congregation. Special memories can be e-mailed to Susan Robbins at jamrobbins@aol.com.

Barbara's ministry at Westminster has touched all of our lives. We hope you can join us in celebrating her 31 years with us.

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CHURCH STAFF

Table listing church staff members including Pastor Ben Dorr, Associate Pastors Barbara Stoop and Leigh Stuckey, and various other roles like Music Director, Children's Choir Coordinator, etc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 19 - 25, 2019

- SUNDAY: Men's Retreat at Camp Thornwell, New Member Class, Worship Service, Library Committee Meeting, Sunday School, Worship Service, New Member Reception, Stated Session Meeting, Connections Group, Alcoholics Anonymous. MONDAY: NAMI, Theology Reading Group, Narcotics Anonymous. TUESDAY: Staff Meeting, AI-Anon, PW Circle #7. WEDNESDAY: Weekday Chapel, Luncheon Group Meeting, Divorce Support Group, Youngish Adults Group Meeting, Needle Arts Group. THURSDAY: Narcotics Anonymous. FRIDAY: Hiking Group.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

We would like to list the names of our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 232-2424. The names will be listed in the June 2 Harbinger.

Name: _____ School: _____



REFLECTION ON ACTS 11:1-18

My favorite time of the day is that last hour or so before sleep overcomes my weakening grip on consciousness. I cherish the silence that pervades my otherwise bustling household. The softened shadows cast from dimly lit lamps throughout the house are a welcome contrast to the barrage of cold, industrial light that illuminates my workplace. It is during this time, usually in the comfort of my bed, that I spend the last moments of the day with a Kindle in my hand and Foster-Grants over my nose. I love to read. Historical titles, nonfiction and the like always capture my attention.

Knowing this about me, you would be inclined to think that reading the Bible would be "right up my alley." The Bible is not up my alley. As far as readability, I find it to be among the most difficult works of literature ever composed. My ignorance of the vernacular, historical context, and geographical setting greatly hinders my search for the message conveyed in each passage. Furthermore, since the Bible has numerous authors, honing in on the writers style proves to be unhelpful in my attempt to decipher scripture.

In Acts:1-18, the apostle Luke tells the story of Peter as he is being reproached by other apostles and high ranking members of the Jewish faith for having shared in a meal with a group of Gentiles. The assumption on the part of the apostles and non-Gentiles was that the Gentiles were not pure enough in the Jewish faith to receive the salvation offered by Christ. It would seem that this is the precise moment in the Bible where Christianity went from being a "sect" of the Jewish faith to an altogether different religion. Of course, beyond the span of 2000 years, if we are to know only one thing about Christianity, it is that Christ offers eternal life to all who believe in Him.

And yet, 2000 years later, we see examples of the same zealotry described by Luke within our own faith, in our own town. I am proud to be a part of a church that does not exclude (in any possible way) individuals whose lifestyle, views, or actions (past and present) do not "qualify" them as being "pure" in their faith. I am thankful we have church leaders who have spent most of the waking hours of their adult lives in the pursuit to explore, decode, understand, and most importantly...teach all that the Bible offers to individuals whom, like me, find its interpretation as elusive as that chocolate-frosted, sprinkle-coated Krispy Kreme after a ten o'clock summer service.

Mark Pruitt