

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Sunday, September 22, 2019**

**9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them. You are more willing to give than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened for us, 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.**

**PREPARING FOR GOD’S WORD**

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Smith

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 79 & Psalm 113*

Leader: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;

People: **Deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.**

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 630 CRUSADER'S HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Good and gracious God, we admit that we are a proud and stubborn people. We do not like to admit our shortcomings, we hide our weaknesses, and we dodge responsibility for the problems that plague our community. We would rather live in protective bubbles than be made new by your love. Forgive us, holy God, and give us different eyes to view the world. Help us to be honest about our needs. Give us courage to trust in your mercy. Remind us that in Jesus Christ, no problem from our past can prevent us from being transformed by your grace. 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.**

*Children in K5-first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.*

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 32:1-5 O.T., p. 440

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 7:36-50 N.T., p. 840

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Ben Dorr

"The One To Whom Little Is Forgiven"

**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.**

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER 11:15 Carter

"No Harm Have I Done You"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

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

OFFERING

Solo 9:00 "How Beautiful Are the Feet" *from Messiah* Handel

Anthem 11:15 "O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord" Deimer

\* 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. 435 IN BABILONE

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE "Beautiful Savior" Christiansen

\* POSTLUDE Allegro in C Corelli

*\*All who are able may stand*

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**HEAD USHERS:** 9:00 a.m. Keith Stevenson  
11:15 a.m. Dick Stewart  
**SPONSOR:** 9:00 a.m. Ashley Gettys  
**GREETERS:** 9:00 a.m. Talitha Allen, Jon McKnight  
Mike Hall  
11:15 a.m. Becca Donohue, Sarah Beasley  
Elizabeth McElveen  
**LITURGIST:** Amos Workman  
**LAY READERS:** 9:00 a.m. Talitha Allen  
11:15 a.m. Grady Patterson  
**ACOLYTES:** 9:00 a.m. Grayson O'Toole, Charlie Rowan  
11:15 a.m. Elizabeth Brasington, Daniel Knauer

**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](http://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.**

*Emily Sweezey, soloist*

**11:15 a.m.**

*Sanctuary Choir*

**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.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 6**

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, October 6**, immediately following our 11:15 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect this year’s Nominating Committee (which will nominate the next class of elders) and to vote on the Session’s recommendation that a new pastoral position be created on our staff: Associate Pastor for Mission and Congregational Life.

**FALL  
SERMON SERIES**

The title of our fall sermon series is "Who Do You Say That I Am?" Each Sunday until the end of November, we will explore a different name, description, or identity given to Jesus in the New Testament. The focus for today’s sermon is Jesus, the one who forgives.

**BIRTH**

A son, *Robert Donald McElveen, III*, was born to Donny & Katie McElveen on Sunday, July 21, 2019, in Greenville.

**BIRTH**

A son, *William Heilig Sivertson*, was born to Erik & Lawson Sivertson on Saturday, September 7, 2019, in Greenville.

**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:**

*The Family of Helen Pickelsimer*

*Gaye Sprague & family*

*Elizabeth Rasor & family*

*The Family of Tommy Miller*

**UNITED MINISTRIES**

**WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB**

**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.

**MEN'S GROUP**

**BOOK STUDY**

The Men's Group will continue their fall book study on **Monday, September 23, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 209-C**, studying the book Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference by Philip Yancey. All WPC men are invited to participate and newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact *Rick Carpenter* (608-1881).

**ADULT GROUPS**

- **Luncheon Group:** Will meet **Wednesday, September 25, at 12:00 p.m. in Room 211.** Group Leader: *Mary Ann Cox* (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).
- **Needle Arts Group:** Will meet **Wednesday, September 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion.** Group Leader: *Terry Gentry* (tgentry@charter.net).
- **Couples Bible Study Group:** Will meet **Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Charter Room.** Group Leaders: *Dick & Mary Sargent* (mfsdesigns95@yahoo.com).
- **Hiking Group:** Will hike Burnt Mountain Trail on **Friday, September 27.** Hike Leader: *Buffie Taylor* (ehtaylor87@gmail.com or 640-4554).

The Westminster Book Club meets on the first Tuesday night of the month, at **7:00 pm**, in the church library (except December and July). New people are always welcome. For **October 1**, the group will read and discuss Haunting Bombay by Shilpa Agarwal. This is a story about a motherless girl living with her grandmother and her uncle's family in their bungalow in 1960s Bombay who inadvertently unleashes a ghost, forcing the family to confront the shocking truth behind a drowning death that occurred there years earlier. *Anne Holleman* will be leading this month's discussion. The book chosen for November 5 is How Not to Die Alone by Richard Roper. Join us!

**JUSTFAITH**

Poverty, Consumerism, Compassion: JustFaith is a transformative 8-week journey delving into how these issues can challenge our world view. Risk stretching your spiritual boundaries and join us beginning **Monday, October 7, at 6:00 p.m.** For more information, call *Susan McLeod* (787-6262), *Susan Fender* (905-5466), or *Bill Holt* (982-3368).

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS**

It's that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to write a short devotional to be included in the 2019 Advent Devotions series. Email *Joanne Sweeny* (swejoa38@gmail.com) if you would be willing to help with this. Thank you.

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**THE HARBINGER**  
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

September 22-28, 2019

**SUNDAY**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 Education Committee Meeting  
 New Member Class  
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
 12:15 p.m. New Member Reception  
 5:00 p.m. Middler Group Meeting  
 5:15 p.m. Senior High Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner  
 6:30 p.m. Middler Choir Rehearsal  
 Senior High Group Meeting  
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

**MONDAY**

6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study  
 6:15 p.m. NAMI  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

**TUESDAY**

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

**WEDNESDAY**

9:30 a.m. Weekday Chapel  
 9:45 a.m. Weekday Chapel  
 12:00 p.m. Luncheon Group Meeting  
 3:00 p.m. It's Elementary  
 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Chorister Rehearsal  
 6:30 p.m. Needle Arts Group Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 Couples Bible Study

**THURSDAY**

10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study  
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

**BASKETBALL REGISTRATION BEGINS**

Youth ages 5K-12 grade are invited to participate in Christian fellowship and recreational basketball for the upcoming season, which will begin the week of November 16. The 5K-1st grade league will begin Saturday, December 7. WPC members interested in being a coach or assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch ([bryant\\_puntch@ucbi.com](mailto:bryant_puntch@ucbi.com) or 915-5686). **Online player registration will end Thursday, October 10.** Registration and schedules may be accessed on the church's website (<https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/youth-basketball/>).



**LETTING GO**

*"The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky  
 Are also on the faces of people going by  
 I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do,  
 they're really saying I love you."*

*From the song  
 "What A Wonderful World"*

As we look at the world in 2019, there is trouble afoot. The misguided conviction that "our side" alone can find the answers; every issue turned into a binary choice; the hatred that spews from so many angles; it just seems so overwhelming. Unfortunately, that has led to grudges flourishing. In the past, the word "grudge" held a negative meaning. We knew we shouldn't hold grudges or seek retribution. Today some see grudges as a means to an end, and revenge as a cul-de-sac of comfort, not a dead-end path.

In darker moments, I know I have pondered revenge or retribution over either real or perceived slights. But what good really comes of that? There may be a momentary rush of satisfaction, but then we are left with the empty feeling knowing that we have failed to adhere to Jesus' teachings, that we have failed to forgive.

And some of the greatest of Jesus' teachings are revealed in the Beatitudes. They are one of Christianity's cornerstones. They are meant to be a guide in difficult times or "very present help in trouble," as it is written in Psalm 46.

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

I think what the Beatitudes call us to do is to let go. Let go of ill feelings, embrace mercy; let go of urges, seek a pureness of heart; let go of grudges, try to make peace. They are a call for forgiveness.

It sounds so simple, and yet so complex when we are in the maelstrom of our everyday world. But imagine – not if we achieved what Christ points us toward – but if we simply try. Try to be merciful, try to be pure in heart, try to make peace, try to forgive.

What a wonderful world that could be.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help us to let go of our foolish desires and embrace the wisdom and teachings of Christ. Amen.

*Mark Matlock*