

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Sunday, January 26, 2020  
9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Eternal God, you are the power behind all things: behind the energy of the storm, behind the heat of a million suns. Eternal God, you are the power behind all minds: behind the ability to think and reason, behind all understanding of the truth. Eternal God, you are the power behind the cross of Christ: behind the weakness, the torture and the death, behind unconquerable love. Eternal God, we worship and adore you. 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** Allegro in D minor Scarlatti

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Isaiah 29:14,19

**Leader:** The Lord said: I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing.

**People:** **The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.**

**Leader:** The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord.

**People:** **And the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.**

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE** No. 33 LLANFAIR

“Praise the Lord! God’s Glories Show”

\* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, forgive us for seeking security in that which will not last. We have hidden our fears behind socially acceptable habits, and have buried the truth under self-righteous narratives. Our faith has been fragile, and our commitment to Christ’s cross has been weak. Shower us with your compassion, O Lord, and help us see our desperate need for your grace. Give us the humility we need to live like forgiven people, and grant us the courage we need to become more hopeful people. Remake our minds and hearts today, so that our community would more closely resemble Christ. 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.*

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14 O.T., p. 437

**GOSPEL LESSON** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 N.T., p. 926

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** Ben Dorr

“Without Eloquent Wisdom”

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Nicene Creed Hymnal, p. 34

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**Invitation**

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, & The Lord’s Prayer

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Words of Institution**

**Distribution of the Elements**

*The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.*

**Prayer after Communion**

**OFFERING**

Offertory “The Lord Is My Light” Fettke

\* **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. 826 CRUCIFER

“Lift High the Cross”

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE** Toccata in E minor Pachelbel

*\*All who are able may stand*

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**HEAD USHERS:** **9:00 a.m.** Anne Nuttall  
**11:15 a.m.** Alex Crigler  
**SPONSOR:** Steve Johnson  
**GREETERS:** **9:00 a.m.** Parks McLeod, Michael Hoffman  
Anna Hanor  
**11:15 a.m.** Gaye Sprague, Talitha Allen  
Becky Warth  
**LITURGISTS:** **9:00 a.m.** Amos Workman  
**11:15 a.m.** Mary Kathleen Duncan  
**LAY READERS:** **9:00 a.m.** Ashley Gettys  
**11:15 a.m.** Tavia Young

**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*

*Derek Pitman, soloist*

This week, members of the Sanctuary Choir are participating in the Festival by the Sea in Charleston, SC. This annual gathering of church choirs from the southeast celebrates fellowship, quality worship experiences, and expressing our faith through music in worship.

**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 K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children’s Church in Room 206.

**LET US PRAY FOR:**

*Mary Lawson and family*

**On Sunday, February 2,** Lauren Slingerland will be ordained and installed as our Associate Pastor for Children at our 11:15 a.m. service! This is an important and exciting occasion for Lauren and for our congregation. A reception in celebration of Lauren’s ordination and installation will be held in the Sanctuary Atrium following the service.

**COMMUNION BREAD**

The bread we are offering at today’s communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sourdough (rice flour, water), rice starch, corn starch, agave syrup, psyllium seed husks (vegetable fiber), sunflower oil, modified cellulose, soy protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fiber, rice flour, sugar, quinoa flour, salt, corn flour, honey, guar gum, calcium citrate, niacin, iron, thiamin, riboflavin. Contains soy.

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND**

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. Specific envelopes for your contributions may be found in the Ritual of Friendship booklets. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

**GIVE TO DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS:**

Witness and Service designated over \$30,000 to Disaster Assistance in 2019 and has pledged at least \$10,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in 2020. PDA supports immediate response efforts to address national and international disasters — most recently the earthquakes in Puerto Rico and fire crises around the world. If you would like to donate to relief efforts thru PDA, please place a check made out to WPC with a notation designating PDA Crisis Relief. Your act of open-hearted giving is a support to those who walk the hard road to recovery, assuring them of the hope that God delivers among the chaos of disaster.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will meet again on **Monday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m.** in **Room 209-C.** We are studying the book, *The Bible Jesus Read*, by Philip Yancey. All WPC men are invited to participate and newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact *Rick Carpenter* (608-1881).

## 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.

## ADULT GROUPS

The **Needle Arts Group** will meet **Wednesday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Entrance Pavilion.** Leader: *Terry Gentry* (tmgentry@charter.net).

## WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

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). Newcomers are always welcome. For **February 4**, the group will read and discuss *Pachinko* by Min Gin Lee. The discussion will be led by *Ruth Johnston*.

## CHERUBS IN THE SPRING!

Beginning **February 5**, we will commence with our next season of Cherub Choir! We will meet **each Wednesday** from **3:30-4:00** in **Room 208.** This spring we will prepare a program that will be featured before the Junior and Senior Choristers musical on **Sunday, March 29.** Please register your child for this spring season online at <https://wpc-online.org> under the connect and events registration tab. Contact *Katie Knauer* (kknauer@wpc-online.org) for further information.

## INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster Presbyterian Church, membership here, and what it means to be Presbyterian are invited to attend our **New Member Class** from **9-10:30 a.m.** on **Sunday, February 16.** Those who have been baptized and who wish to become members may do so on **Sunday, February 16**, during the **11:15 a.m. worship service** or on a future new member Sunday. If you are interested in joining us, please contact *Jennifer Dillard* (jdillard@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424.

## JUSTFAITH GROUP

JustFaith Phase II, *Caring for Each Other*, will begin **Monday, February 3**, from **6-8:30 p.m.** in the **Charter Room.** For more information call *Susan McLeod* (787-6262), *Susan Fender* (905-5466), or *Bill Holt* (982-3368).

## YOUNGISH AT WPC

Young...or youngish? We're generous with the term around here. If you're somewhere between 20-something and 40-something we hope you'll join us for study and fellowship this semester. We're continuing our series on miracles, and we're meeting at some of Greenville's hottest spots. Our first meeting is **Wednesday, February 5** at **The Commons** (147 Welborn St.). Drop by around **6:30 p.m.** There will be childcare at WPC beginning at **6:15 p.m.** Watch the Harbinger and our email newsletter for upcoming dates and locations. For more information or to be added to our newsletter contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org).

## CONNECTIONS:

Please join Westminster friends for Connections, an adult fellowship group for couples and singles, for lunch at **Lieu's Chinese Bistro** (1149 Woodruff Rd), at **12:45 p.m. Sunday, February 9**, after the 11:15 worship service. New people are always welcome. **RSVP by Friday, February 7**, by contacting *Mary Ann Cox* (1maryanncox@gmail.com or 963-2335).

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**THE HARBINGER**  
**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN**  
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## CHURCH STAFF

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS January 26 - February 1, 2020

### SUNDAY

*Sanctuary Choir Festival by the Sea*  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Education Committee Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
12:30 p.m. New Elder Training Class  
4:00 p.m. Baptism Class  
5:00 p.m. APNC Meeting  
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

9:00 a.m. It's Elementary Volunteer Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Group  
6:15 p.m. NAMI  
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### TUESDAY

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
12:00 p.m. AI-Anon  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### WEDNESDAY

9:30 a.m. Weekday Chapel  
9:45 a.m. Weekday Chapel  
3:00 p.m. It's Elementary!  
4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers  
6:30 p.m. Needle Arts Group  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY

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

## SUPPER WITH SEVEN

It's time to sign up for our next Supper With Seven series. Supper With Seven groups will be made up of couples and singles who will get together for fellowship. The goal will be to have each group get together three times in a period from late February through May. The meal-sharing opportunities range from a traditional dinner at a member's home to backyard barbecues to meetings at the pizza parlor. It is up to each group to decide. ***The deadline to sign up for Supper With Seven is Monday, February 3.***

To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Supper With Seven page (<https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/supper-with-seven/>).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include both names if you are signing up as a couple.)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check as many as apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would be willing to host a first gathering of seven or so people.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.



In her 20s, Maya Angelou was asked by her instructor to reread a line from H. Emilie Cady's classic *Lessons in Truth* to her class. She emphatically read "God loves me," and in that instant, she said that she knew she was a child of God. She left the room and started weeping. She would later recall that those words were humbling and that they gave her newfound freedom to go out and do good things and do them well.

"That's why I am who I am, because God loves me, and I'm amazed at it," she said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey. Angelou said she gained a new appreciation for praying. Her prayers focused on offering thanks, "Thanking God for God, thanking God for Jesus, and thanking Jesus for Jesus."

As I read this story about such a knowledgeable and powerful woman whom I've had as a professor in college and whom I've admired, I couldn't help but connect it to this week's Bible verse. In Corinth, the church that Paul created was being divided by groups who followed different human leaders of the church. Paul's letter to the Christians was to stop dividing themselves and become unified in and around Christ. Paul begins the letter with thanks for the great and powerful gifts God has given to them by His grace and through their faith in Christ. He reminds them that their faith in Christ (not human leaders) is what makes them a Christian and is also what unites them.

At the end of this week's verse, Paul explains that Christ's death on the cross may seem weak and foolish to the world, but he reminds us that God has given faith in Christ to those who believe it and find God's power and wisdom.

As amazing as Maya Angelou was, she too was human like the rest of us, working to live a life of gratitude through Christ. Through her focused faith, God used her to share his word. Her story was a reminder to me that God loves each one of us and to consistently express gratitude through prayer to God who loves me.

*Tiffany Williams*