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# HARBINGER

*open minds open hearts*

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## *From the Pews, Kathleen Reynolds*

Anyone remember what he or she was doing on March 15, 2020? I remember I was at a baby shower. Covid was all the talk. We only waved at each other with absolutely no hugging. “Safety first,” we laughed, even though we were tucked together inside. Months later we would realize how naive that thinking was at the time.

Just then the dreaded 355 number came up on my phone. All Greenville County School District parents know that number, and their stomachs drop when they see it flash up on their phones. It usually brings bad news like snow days for inclement weather or a two-hour delay.

On that afternoon I listened in shock as the principal of my child’s elementary school announced that schools would be closed for the next two weeks. Deep breaths. It’s only two weeks I told myself with my head between my knees. “We can do this,” my friends at the shower reassured each other looking around the room for tribal strength. Only two weeks. It would be fun. Lots of time together. It was a beautiful spring. Before we know it, we’ll be back to school and back to life as we know it.

Oh... how wrong we were.

I spent much of that spring praying. Praying to stand up to the mental and emotional load I was bearing. Praying for patience with my children. Praying for the words to help my children understand the confusion that was roiling our world. Praying for guidance as I navigated the ever changing landscape of what was considered safe. Praying for our leaders to keep their heads in order to keep us protected during this unknown time. Praying for my family and friends and those all around the world.

When I reflect on what I expect will be an indelible portion of our lives, I think I prayed more during that beautiful spring than I have in my life. But as a result of the tension between that struggle and the comfort of prayer, I felt closer to God.

In Psalm 18 the writer begins by stating “I love you, O Lord, my strength.” I now realize that’s really all we need to know. The Psalmist goes on to elaborate on the Lord’s support- it is like a rock, a shield. Proclaiming your love for God and calling Her your strength can answer any question you might have and supply help in any problem that comes up. God is our strength. She fights for us. She supports us. Her love will never waiver.

While the last year has felt like an eternity, it has forced me to search more deeply for strength in something outside myself. I could not simply overcome the situation. I could only sit and pray and wait. Oh, so hard alone, but with my Rock I took refuge. “He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.”

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 21, 2021 | In-Person at 11:15a | Fifth Sunday in Lent



## Preparation for **Worship**

“As brother stands by brother in distress, binding up his wounds and soothing his pain, so let us show our love towards our enemy. There is no deeper distress to be found in the world, no pain more bitter than our enemy’s. Nowhere is service more necessary or more blessed than when we serve our enemies.”

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## Welcome and Announcements

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

**People: And also with you.**

Prelude

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

arr. Schrader

\* Call to Worship

*from Psalms 66 & 67*

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;  
sing the glory of God’s name; give to God glorious praise.

**People: Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.

**All: Let us worship God!**

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\* Prayer of Confession

**Gracious and holy God,**

**forgive us for letting our lives  
drift in dangerous directions.**

**We have prioritized self-righteousness  
ahead of relationships.**

**We have considered our own care and comfort first.**

**We have refused to examine ourselves with honest eyes,  
but have redoubled our efforts to  
take the speck out of our neighbor's eye.**

**In your loving-kindness,  
grant us a new way to walk in the world.**

**We ask for the perseverance to pray for all people,  
the courage to mend conflicted relationships,  
and the faith that you are working to reconcile  
all things to yourself.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

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

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

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson, *Romans 12:14-21*

The Psalter, *Psalms 18:1-6, 16-19*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*"Confronted by Enemies"*

Organ Meditation

*"O Day of Peace"*

Parry

*O day of peace that dimly shines through all  
our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

*Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.**

Call to Prayer            "The Steadfast Love of the Lord"            McNeill

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.*

*God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning.*

*Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.*

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.**

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"To God be the Glory"

arr. Schrader

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Gaye Sprague, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Roxanne Cromartie, *head usher*

Michael Dixon, Ben Edwards, *greeters*

*\*All who are able may stand*

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## **Join Us in Welcoming**

### **BAPTISM**

We welcome *Timothy Lewis Buchanan, III*, son of Chip & Emily Buchanan, in our worship service this morning.

This morning we welcomed into our fellowship *Sadie Hetrick Smoak*, daughter of Clay & Meagan Smoak, at our 9a recorded service.

## **With Thanksgiving We Celebrate**

On Saturday, March 13, 2021, *Allie Able* and *Hunter Wood* were united in marriage at Westminster.

### **BIRTHS**

The birth of a daughter, *Catherine James Paylor*, to Andrew & Mary Paylor on 3/5/2021.

The birth of a son, *Robert Walker Miller*, to Walker & Leigh Miller on 3/10/2021.

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC**

### **PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP FROM HOME ON SUNDAY MORNING?**

Our pre-recorded service will continue to air on our website at 9a, and on our social media platforms. Our in-person worship service will air on our website via livestream at 11:15a. The Harbinger that you receive in the mail will be for our pre-recorded worship. If you would like the Harbinger for our 11:15a livestream worship, you may download it from our website at <https://wpc-online.org/sermon-archive>.

### **A SEASON OF OUTDOOR SERVICES CONTINUES**

On Sunday, March 28, at 3:00p. We will celebrate Palm Sunday, join in singing and reflect on God's word to us today. Registration is required and is limited to 150 worshipers. Masks should be worn throughout the service and distance maintained in order to guarantee safety. We will continue to stream a service of worship featuring hymnody and liturgy and offer Sanctuary services on Sunday mornings. Join us on the 28th!

## **OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC**

### **SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

The Pastor's Zoom Bible Study is scheduled for Sunday mornings at 10 am and will run through early May. Leigh Stuckey will lead participants in engaging and provoking discussions based on the texts of the day. We hope you will join us.

Meeting ID: 918 5587 5662

Passcode: 785672

### **ZOOM CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Join us each Sunday for a Zoom Children's Sunday School at 10a.

Meeting ID: 980 3425 3372

Passcode: 700049

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **JUSTFAITH:**

### **FAITH AND RACIAL HEALING**

Zoom meetings have resumed and will continue through Monday, March 22 at 6p. For information, previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262).

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENT**

### **LENTEN SYMBOL SCAVENGER HUNT**

Come hunt around the church campus for symbols of the Lenten season. Families with children 5th grade and younger can pick up a guide sheet from Lauren at the church office door starting at 4p today. Search around the church and the stained glass windows to find the symbols at your own pace, work together or race your friends! Masks and social distancing required.

## **MEN OF THE CHURCH - SPRING CAMP THORNWELL MISSION**

The Spring Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell will be Wednesday, May 12 through Saturday, May 15. Overnight indoor accommodations will be limited according to Covid protocol, so sign ups to reserve beds are required (<https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/mens-mission-trip/>). Camping onsite is also an option. All food will be provided. We will be finishing construction of a cabin structure plus the ever present landscaping, cleaning, and odd jobs. We have something for all to do whether you come for a day or for one or more nights. Contact Paul O'Neal ([paulmoneal@aol.com](mailto:paulmoneal@aol.com)) with questions.



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **Memorials/Honorariums/Easter Lilies**

Those desiring to remember or honor loved ones during the Easter season may do so in three ways: Money may be given to the Heritage Lecture Fund, the Endowment Fund, or to purchase a lily for the sanctuary (\$15.00). Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, March 24.

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Heritage Lecture Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lily \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 21 - 28, 2021

### March 21

#### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 9:00a Online Worship Service
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
  - Zoom Children's Sunday School
  - Zoom Confirmation Class: Session 3
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service
- 12:30p Zoom Stated Session Meeting
- 4:00 Children's Ministry Lent Scavenger Hunt
- 5:00 WPCYG Middlers Shepherd Groups in green lot
- 6:30 WPCYG Senior High Shepherd Groups in green lot

### Tuesday, March 23

- 12:00p Zoom Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, March 24

- 11:00a Zoom Luncheon Group Meeting
- 3:00 It's Elementary Pop-Up in green lot

### March 28

#### PALM SUNDAY

- 9:00a Online Worship Service
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
  - Zoom Children's Sunday School
  - Confirmation Class: Session 4 in green lot
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service
- 3:00 Outdoor Palm Sunday Worship Service
- 5:00 WPCYG Middlers Shepherd Groups
- 6:30 WPCYG Senior High Shepherd Groups

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **CHURCH STAFF**

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