

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Brock Koonce

As we move into a world of Covid vaccines and an understanding of our new reality, many are looking back to the last year and the trials and tribulations we all faced. Some felt overcome with the isolation from loved ones and friends while others struggled with feelings of loneliness and fear at what was to come. While those feelings permeated our everyday lives, we read the newspaper or turned on the TV and we saw even more struggle in the lives of our neighbors. It drove the entire world to see life in a different way, but also feel a sense of frustration and, at times, lacking faith in a positive outcome.

My life began to experience a personal shift in January of 2020 and then more in September. My belief in myself had begun to teeter and my health was beginning to become a concern. A short stay at the hospital and a diagnosis of diabetes was a jolting experience, but one that provided an enormous reminder and a renewed outlook.

I realized that, to get healthier and rebuild my certainty-of-self, I could not do it alone. Of course, I had the love of my wife and family. But I also realized that God was with me and my trust in him would help guide me on this journey. During this time, I spoke to God many times. There were days of trial throughout, but my faith remained assured that God was there with me and would not let me falter.

In Acts 5, the apostles were met with the threat of jail as they taught the people in the temple. They were brought before the Sanhedrin to be questioned regarding sharing the word of Jesus in public places. Throughout the threat of jail, the apostles remained resolute in their faith. They held steadfast in their trust that God would not let them be held from sharing their message. Their conviction in God's love never wavered.

Most of us have stories of hardships during our lives, especially during the last year. But, as we move forward each day, we can remain strong in our beliefs and fueled by our trust in God and the Holy Spirit. We can continue to know that we are counted worthy and God continues to walk with us, even through the toughest times.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 25, 2021 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | 9a wpc-online.org



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

“We should live in such a way that our lives wouldn’t make much sense if the gospel were not true.”

Dorothy Day

Gathering and Preparing for **God’s Word**

Prelude

“Glorify Thy Name”

arr. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

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

People: And also with you.

Call to Worship

Psalm 30:1-2, 4-5

**I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.**

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

**Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.**

For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

**Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.**

Let us worship God!

Hymn #610

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Holy and loving God,

**we come before you today with faith that has been fearful,
hearts that have been selfish,
and souls that have been stuck.**

We hear the good news of Easter,

but are anxious to move on to other news.

We see the suffering of our neighbor,

but turn our eyes toward more comforting scenes.

We have followed the idols of competition and control,

failing to acknowledge the cost of our insecurity.

Forgive us, heal us, and redeem us, gracious God.

Let the light of Easter reshape our lives,

**so that your joy may be shared abundantly
and your peace will be known by all. Amen.**

The Sacrament of Baptism

Tate Huffman Metherell

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *John 21:15-19*

New Testament Lesson, *Acts 5:25-42*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "A Question We Would Rather Not Raise"

Anthem "And Can It Be"

Forrest

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.**

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hymn #223	“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”	HAMBURG
Charge and Benediction		
Postlude	“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”	arr. Page

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

LeAnne White, *sponsor/lay reader*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Katie Knauer, Diana Dailey, Derek Pitman, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Tate Huffman Metherell*, son of Darah Huffman & Elizabeth Metherell.

At our 11:15a livestream service, we welcome *Francis Beckett Jones*, son of Clay & Brooke Jones.

We Remember in Prayer

Sally Daniels on the death of her husband, Mark Daniels, in Greenville - 4/12/2021.

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>.

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) with questions.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

SUNDAY MORNING

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Pastor's Zoom Bible Study is scheduled for Sunday mornings at 10a 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.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 980 3425 3372

Passcode: 700049

IT'S ELEMENTARY

Our last It's Elementary pop up will be Wednesday, May 5! We'll celebrate what we've learned this year with games and ice cream. Look for more information in your email or contact Lauren Slingerland for details.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, May 4, at 7p in the Green Lot. In the case of rain, we will hold the session in Room 209. Buffie Taylor will lead the discussion of [American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUSTFAITH:

FAITH AND RACIAL JUSTICE

Zoom meetings have resumed and will continue through Monday, May 24 at 6p. For information, previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262).

**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
SPRING GATHERING
SUNDAY, APRIL 25
1:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Women and girls of Westminster are invited to the annual WPC Spring Gathering (formerly the Generations Banquet). While we will not have a meal this year, we hope you will join us as we celebrate being together, enjoy a short program, and honor our Lifetime Achievement members! You must register in advance in order to attend. Signups will be limited to 125 on a first come, first served basis.

Each year the Women of Westminster offer scholarships to provide financial aid among our college student membership. Any Westminster member who will be furthering their education in the fall is eligible to apply. We are not charging a fee to attend the Spring Gathering this year but welcome any donations to our Scholarship Fund.

**We invite all who are able to enjoy the program.*

*We are not able to provide a nursery
or activities room for children at this time.*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 25 - May 2, 2021

Sunday, April 25

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:00a Online Worship Service
Zoom Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
Zoom Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service
- 1:30p Women of Westminster Spring Gathering
- 5:00 WPCYG Middler Shepherd Groups
- 6:30 WPCYG Senior High Shepherd Groups

Wednesday, April 28

- 9:30a Weekday Chapel
- 9:45 Weekday Chapel
- 10:00 Weekday Chapel
- 12:00p Luncheon Group Meeting

Sunday, May 2

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:00a Online Worship Service
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
Zoom Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service
- 5:00p WPCYG Middler Shepherd Groups
- 6:30 WPCYG Senior High Shepherd Groups

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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