

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | MAY 23, 2021 | No. 2B

From the Pews, Alissa Edwards

For as long as I can remember, serving and helping others has been a part of my life. As a little girl, my mother was very involved in helping the less fortunate in our community. She worked tirelessly trying to stop the cycle of mothers dropping out of high school because they had small children. Her goal was to ensure that these mothers got their GEDs and that their small children stayed in school, and also one day graduated from high school themselves. Seeing the work in our community that she was doing made me realize at a very young age that it was important to serve and help those in need in our community.

As a young adult and adult I have been on several mission trips with different churches. Most recently I chaperoned the high school mission trip to Chicago. While we were in Chicago, we worked in different places every day that served the city. Every day I was reminded how important these missions are. From food banks to care for the Hispanic elderly, to mental health missions, every day was eye opening to the needs of the city. Through our service that week, we reached all sorts of people in different situations and it felt like I had a purpose in serving those people.

Our scripture this week, Acts 2:1-21 tells about Pentecost. When I read the scripture, I think about how God is equipping us to serve in our world. Missions work also celebrates a cross-cultural worship experience. Missionaries can lead people to God. Whether it be a missionary in a Nicaraguan school or serving in a Japanese church, they are recognizing the beauty of different cultures and traditions. These different cultures with different languages being spoken all come back to one thing, God. God is here for us and God wants us to serve others and help others, regardless of the language they speak or their circumstances.

When I think about Westminster Presbyterian Church and the missions we contribute to with our time and our finances, it brings me great joy. Knowing that our family's pledge to our church goes to help people in our community, in our country, and in our world gives me a sense of accomplishment. Our tithes and offerings from our church help so many – and especially now during a pandemic those gifts are essential. When I think about the Christian church's mission to the world I am proud to say that Westminster is a great place to be.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 23, 2021 | In-Person at 11:15a | Pentecost Sunday



Preparation for **Worship**

Almighty God, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit heal us, may the gifts of your Spirit strengthen us, and may the love of your Spirit be our guide and our goal, now and forevermore. Amen.

Gathering and Preparing for God's Word

Welcome and Announcements

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

People: **And also with you.**

Prelude "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" arr. Larson

Introit "Veni Sancte Spiritus" Berthier

* Call to Worship

Leader: God's Spirit joins with our spirits,
to declare that we are children of God.

People: **Come, Spirit of wisdom,
and teach us to value the highest gifts.**

Leader: Come, Spirit of understanding,
and show us all things in the light of eternity.

People: **Come, Spirit of faithfulness,
and stir up our hearts to love
and serve the Lord all our days.**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Rain upon our dry and dusty lives,
so that new life would grow through you.

All: **Let us worship God!**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

**you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples,
creating bold tongues, open ears,
and a new community of faith.**

**We confess that we hold back the force
of your Spirit among us.**

**We do not listen for your word of grace,
speak the good news of your love,
or live as a people made one in Christ.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit.

**Fill us with faith that conquers our fear,
fill us with hope that vanquishes our despair,
and fill us with love that reaches out to all.**

We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

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

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Ezekiel 37:1-6*

Gospel Lesson, *Acts 2:1-21*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Faces in the Crowd"

Anthem

"Fill-a Me Up"

Choplin

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Affirmation of Faith, *The Nicene Creed*

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

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” Montgomery

Postlude Pentecost Toccata Rutter

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Lynne Robinson, *organist/pianist*

Kelly Kemp, Diana Dailey, Derek Pitman, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

Russ Williams, *head usher*

Michael Dixon, Ben Edwards, *greeters*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

On Saturday, May 15, 2021, *Rebecca Stoddard* and *Tom Turnbull* were united in marriage at Westminster.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

WELCOME JULIA WATKINS

Join us in the Green Lot today, May 23, 3-4:30p for a drop in welcoming our newest associate pastor, Julia Watkins. Refreshments will be served.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On Sunday, May 30, we will begin our traditional summer worship schedule. We will gather for one service at 10a in the sanctuary. This service will be live streamed.

WESTFEST AT THE RUNWAY

We are thrilled to announce a rescheduled WestFest, this time at the Downtown Airport in the Runway Cafe hangar (21 Airport Rd. ext), on Sunday, June 6th from 4:00-7:00p. WestFest on the Runway will be a ticketed event. Visit wpc-online.org to reserve your spot. WestFest on the Runway will feature live music from Sam Burchfield and beverages from Brewery 85.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. 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.

PENTECOST OFFERING

This annual offering taken by Presbyterian Churches goes to aid children, youth, and young adults. The money helps children at risk both here and abroad. Plus, a portion of the gifts strengthens ministries nurturing the faith of our young people and developing leaders of tomorrow. Twenty percent of the offering is retained by the local church. We invite you to participate in this vital ministry. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Pentecost Offering.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

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

SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Women of Westminster offers scholarships to provide financial aid among 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 Coleman Dixon (colemamdixon@hotmail.com) with any questions. The deadline is Friday, June 18, 2021. Church members are reminded that memorials and donations may be designated to this scholarship fund to aid in its continuation.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, June 1, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Beth Edwards will lead the discussion of God's in Alabama by Joshilyn Jackson. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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 6 Harbinger.

Name: _____

School: _____

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 23-30, 2021

Sunday, May 23

PENTECOST

- 9:00a Online Worship Service with communion
Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
Zoom Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service with communion
- 3:00p Meet & Greet with Julia Watkins in the Green Lot

Tuesday, May 25

- 4:30p 8th Grade Bible Study Tuesday in the Green Lot

Wednesday, May 26

- 9:30a Weekday Chapel
- 9:45 Weekday Chapel
- 10:00 Weekday Chapel
- 12:00p Luncheon Group in the Green Lot
- 6:30 Senior High Dinner Club Wednesday in the Green Lot

Sunday, May 30

- 10:00a Worship Service
- 11:00 Fellowship with Donuts

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Ben Dorr
Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Kathryn Knauer
Children's Choir Coordinator
kknauer@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Nancy Smith
Organist
nsmith@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Sherri Owens
Financial Secretary
sherri@wpc-online.org

Julia Watkins
Associate Pastor
jwatkins@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Amos Workman
Parish Associate
aworkman@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Mark Kemp
Director of Music
mkemp@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Lauren Hood
Assoc Dir of Youth Ministry
lhood@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

Jennifer Dillard
Assoc Dir of Children's Ministry
jdillard@wpc-online.org

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SESSION

The Class of 2022

Talitha Allen

Michael Dixon

Sarah Beasley

Ben Edwards

Brian Blount

Ashley Gettys

Scott Clark

Anna Hanor

Brandon Coker

Susan Jones

Bob Dellert

Becky Warth

The Class of 2023

Mary Ashmore

Kevin Lancaster

Tony Atkins

Lisa Mangione

Jeff Beck

Rob Morgan

Emily Busby

Carl Muller

Caroline Clark

Mae Todd Mullins

Durden Collins

Laura Williams Sanders

The Class of 2024

Hastings Blumer

Toni Paylor

Jay Culclasure

Neil Shurley

Ross Glidewell

Keith Stevenson

Jara Jones

Lesley Usher

Meg McKnight

LeAnne White

Kate Weaver Patterson

Russ Williams