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# HARBINGER

*open minds open hearts*

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## ***From the Pews, Sarah Matthews***

This week's scripture contains the second story of the Israelite's journey through the wilderness. At the end of Chapter 15, the Israelites had overcome plagues, Passover, and the deliverance at the Red Sea. Their supplies they have carried with them from Egypt are beginning to run out, and the anticipation of starvation seemingly overwhelms them. They complain to Moses and Aaron that surely they brought them into the wilderness to die. Despite enduring 400-plus years of suffering and witnessing a God who engages in mighty deeds of battle and deliverance, the Israelites quickly lose sight of God's future for them and crumble at the thought of suffering.

Yet again, the Lord responds to the people's need for assurance with a promise. He promises that manna will rain from heaven every morning (verse four). The Israelites are called to go out and gather only what they need each day. On the sixth day of the week, the Lord will test their obedience and they must gather twice as much, so that the seventh day, the Sabbath, can be a day of rest.

This passage could be interpreted simply as people in a desert that become scared, doubt their God, and complain. I think we have all been in the wilderness at some point in our lives. Maybe you are in the wilderness right now – the wilderness of your marriage, your job, or your faith. We leave our Egypt towards a promised land we believe and know is there. The wilderness represents that time between Egypt and the promised land where we doubt the Lord, his promises, and start to have selective memory about what we left behind, romanticizing it and questioning why we ever left.

This passage reassures us that the Lord hears our cries and desires to meet our every need. Maybe the Lord doesn't show up in a cloud like he does in verse 10, but the Lord is listening and is merciful. The Lord will provide for us in the wilderness, but we still have to go out and gather. We have to trust and know that we are his chosen people. And once our needs are met, we are called to rest on the Sabbath.

My prayer this week is that whatever wilderness you are in, call out to the Lord and know that he hears you. Look for his presence, know that he provides. And once your needs are met, may you find rest on the Seventh day knowing that he is good.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 1, 2021 | In-Person at 10a | Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



Preparation for **Worship**

Geese appear high over us,  
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,  
as in love or sleep, holds  
them to their way, clear,  
in the ancient faith: what we need  
is here. And we pray, not  
for new earth or heaven, but to be  
quiet in heart, and in eye  
clear. What we need is here.

*from "Wild Geese" by Wendell Berry*

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

"Amazing Grace"

arr. McDonald

Introit

"Taste and See"

Bell

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## \* Call to Worship

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Leader: Then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**All: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice!  
Let us worship God!**

## \* Hymn No. 509

HOLY MANNA

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

## \* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you are full of surprises.  
We try to contain you with rules and certitude,  
but you exceed our understanding.  
We learn to expect you in places of plenty,  
but you are just as present in the wilderness.  
We prepare to offer death the final word,  
but you interrupt with life and laughter.  
Forgive us, we pray, when our limited expectations obscure  
your limitless power, generosity, and love.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in your many forms,  
and teach us to delight in what we can neither  
anticipate nor control  
that we may live with hope,  
walk with faith, and serve with love. Amen.**

## \* Assurance of Pardon

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

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

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\* 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.***

The Sacrament of Baptism

*Bear Hastings Blumer*

Congregational Response

"Baptized in Water"

Bunessan

Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the  
sign of Christ our King; ——— born of the Spir - it, we are God's  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

## Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, John 6:24-35

p. 867

Old Testament Lesson, Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

p. 55

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Surprise!"

## 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;**

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**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 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" Berthier

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.**

Offering

Anthem "My God Is an Awesome God" Caldwell/Ivory

\*Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God,  
all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly  
host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn No. 65 CWM Rhondda

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction "Glory Be to the Father" Stanford

\* Postlude "All Creatures of Our God and King" arr. Page

*\*All who are able may stand*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading in Worship **this Morning**

Julia Watkins, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Mary Ashmore, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Ross Glidewell, *head usher*

LeAnne White, Russ Williams, *greeters*

This morning we welcome The Reverend Rob Blumer. Rob is the Senior Pastor at Sharon Presbyterian Church in Charlotte and is also the grandfather of Bear Hastings Blumer.

## **Join Us in Welcoming**

### **BAPTISM**

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Bear Hastings Blumer*, son of Hastings & Kristen Blumer.

## **With Thanksgiving We Celebrate**

### **BIRTH**

The birth of a daughter, Lucille Lawson Jones, to Will & Molly Jones on Monday, July 19, 2021.

## **In Memoriam**

Timothy Boyd Raney

(9/4/1954 - 7/23/2021)

*"I am the resurrection and the life."*

*- John 11:25*

### **We Remember in Prayer**

The family of Tim Raney.

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC**

### **SUMMER/FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

We will continue our Summer Worship Schedule of one worship service at 10a through Sunday, September 5th. Following worship on September 5th, we will pack meals to alleviate global hunger through Rise Against Hunger.

Join us September 12th for Rally Day (breakfast at 9a, Sunday School at 10a, and worship at 11:15a).

On September 19th, we'll resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

## **OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC**

### **WPC BOOK CLUB:**

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, August 3, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Buffie Taylor will lead the discussion of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC**

### **SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:**

Many local students have experienced disproportionate challenges as a result of the pandemic. Westminster has an opportunity to respond by partnering with The United Way on their School Tools event, which will support Greenville County students by providing students with completed backpacks on their first day of school. We invite everyone to donate supplies through August 4. Then, our children at VBS will pack into 150-200 backpacks on Friday, Aug.6 and include a personalized backpack tag they created. All backpacks will directly equip students for a year of academic recovery and success. Items to be collected include and may be dropped off at the church office:

- Spiral notebooks
- Folders
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Glue, glue sticks
- Rulers
- Packs of facial tissue

Volunteers are also needed to deliver backpacks to schools. Contact Julia if you are available to help.



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1 - 8, 2021

### **Sunday, August 1**

#### **10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Fellowship with donuts

### **Monday, August 2**

- 9:00a VBS

### **Tuesday, August 3**

- 9:00a VBS
- 12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Westminster Book Club

### **Wednesday, August 4**

- 9:00a VBS
- 2:00p Rising 6th Grade Day
- 6:30 Waffle Cone Wednesday for Middlers (Spill the Beans)
- 7:30 Waffle Cone Wednesday for Senior Highs (Spill the Beans)

### **Thursday, August 5**

- 9:00a VBS

### **Friday, August 6**

- 9:00a VBS
- 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
- 2:00 Rising 6th Grade Day
- 6:05 Middler Group to Drive game

### **Saturday, August 7**

### **Sunday, August 8**

#### **11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 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*