

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | August 8, 2021 | No. 13

From the Pews, Brandon Coker

I'm not a soccer fan really. Baseball was much more of a "fit" for me growing up. All of the running involved in soccer was not attractive, and I still don't really grasp the rules, so when my wife said I had to watch this "Ted Lasso" show about an English soccer team, my expectations were low. Fast-forward to last Friday night, I'm immediately downloading the 2nd season of "Ted Lasso," after watching the first season multiple times. I love the show because it's part sports, part comedy, part drama, part motivation, and pretty much all "feel good" story. If you haven't watched it, I'm obviously on the bandwagon of encouraging others to watch.

In probably the most dramatic scene of the first season, the main character, Ted, is made aware of some deceitful actions that were done to him. His response was to forgive the apologetic agitator. Ted's forgiveness was met with surprise, and then tears and hugs. He then says, "If you care about someone, and have a little love in your heart, there ain't nothing you can't get through together."

Our scripture reading for today is Jesus' response to Peter's question of how many times should we forgive those who "sin against" him, "up to seven times?" Jesus' response is to forgive many multiples of seven times, essentially to always forgive those who sin against you. This direction from Jesus is much easier to hear and recall, than to consistently follow throughout our day to day.

For the past several months, I've been struggling to forgive someone close to me. My response has been to either rehash why I'm right and the other person is wrong, ignore the issue, or only occasionally pray. Then I read this scripture and confirmed that my approach isn't working, and I need to follow Jesus' direction. I love and care about this person, but we need to forgive. It will not be easy, and will most certainly be uncomfortable, but as Ted says, "Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse. If you're comfortable while you're doing it, you're probably doing it wrong."

"Ted Lasso," a great show... Jesus' response to Peter, a great challenge that can help us to be better versions of ourselves.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 8, 2021 | In-Person at 10a | Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Preparation for **Worship**

God, good beyond all that is good, in you is calmness, peace, and concord. Heal the dissensions that divide us from one another and bring us back to a unity of love bearing some likeness of your divine nature. Through the embrace of love and the bonds of godly affection, make us one in the Spirit by your peace which makes all things peaceful. We ask this through the grace, mercy, and tenderness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dionysius of Alexandria, 3rd century

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

"Christians, We Have Met for Worship"

arr. Hustad

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**People: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love
toward those who fear him.**

Leader: God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**People: The steadfast love of the Lord is from
everlasting to everlasting.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 327

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

**we know that our memories are sharp
when we have been wounded,
but dull when we hurt others.**

**We love to judge our own lives on a curve,
while asking our neighbor to walk a moral tightrope.**

**We forget how much grace you have given us,
and hold on to our anger for far too long.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, and remind us anew
of the people we were created to be.**

**Enlarge our empathy, expand our capacity for compassion,
and give us courage to speak the truth in love,
so that we would always be aware of the grace
in which we stand. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

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

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* 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

Eliza Quinn Breaux

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, *Matthew 18:21-22*

p. 800

Epistle Lesson, *Ephesians 4:25-5:2*

p. 951

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Before the Sun Goes Down"

Anthem

"A Child of Peace"

Hagenberg

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

Leading in Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Neil Shurley, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Ross Glidewell, *head usher*

Mary Ashmore, Lisa Mangione, *greeters*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Eliza Quinn Breaux*, daughter of Adam & Deshia Breaux.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

Rachel Inman and Munish Dabas were united in marriage on July 24, 2021 in New York.

In Memoriam

Marian Whitehill

(4/15/1925 - 7/30/2021)

"I am the resurrection and the life."

- John 11:25

We Remember in Prayer

Thomas Young on the death of his father, Tommy Young, in Spartanburg - 7/27/2021.

The family of Marian Whitehill.

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.

SUPPER WITH SEVEN

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER

Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to establish or renew relationships with members of the Westminster church community. Supper With Seven is a group of church members – some couples, some singles, some older and some younger – gathering for a series of two or three meals at times convenient to the group. Deadline to sign up is Monday, August 30.

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

Name(s): _____

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS • Education@WPC

IT'S ELEMENTARY

It's Elementary kicks off on Wednesday, September 1! This fall, students will explore the stories of children in the Bible. As they learn about God's faithfulness, they will learn how they are part of God's story, they are God's children, and they belong in this faith family at Westminster Presbyterian. Children in 1st through 5th grades gather in grade level groups where volunteers lead a Bible story, crafts and recreation.

Each week, It's Elementary meets from 2:45-4:30p. Registration is required and runs from August 1-15. After school tutoring is offered this year from 2:15-2:45 for children from Augusta Circle Elementary. Children registered for after school will be provided with a snack, homework help, and free time. Qualified staff members will support and nurture our children in after school care. You can find the link to register for It's Elementary on our church website.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 8 - 15, 2021

Sunday, August 8

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Wednesday, August 11

- 6:30p Waffle Cone Wednesday for Middlers (Spill the Beans)
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 Waffle Cone Wednesday for Senior Highs (Spill the Beans)

Thursday, August 12

- 12:00p Worship Committee Meeting
- 1:00 Child Protection Task Force Committee Meeting

Sunday, August 15

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 10:00a Worship Service
- 11:00 Fellowship with donuts
- 11:15 Stated Session Meeting

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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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