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# HARBINGER

*open minds open hearts*

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## ***From the Pews, Alissa Edwards***

This week's scripture is the parable of the prodigal son. This is the familiar parable of the young son who is estranged and then returns to his home with the older son feeling upset because the father welcomes the younger son back after he leaves. I think that the parable can be broken down into three main ideas.

The first idea is to look inside yourself. If you look at the parable from the perspective of the prodigal son, and ask for forgiveness and welcome God into your heart, you can see the worth that God sees in you. If you look at the parable from the older son, know that God has given all that you need, and more. We should be grateful for his gifts. Holding a grudge against the prodigal son accomplishes nothing more than putting a strain on your relationship with God.

The second idea is to know that God is waiting for you with open arms. I think that we can all relate to the prodigal son at some point in our lives due to mistakes we make, but we need to be grateful for the unconditional love and forgiveness that God has for us. As for the older son's perspective, no matter how close we are with God currently, we need to know that he loves us with agape love that's greater than we can even comprehend. When we fail, God is here to catch us. If you drift away, he will welcome you back. God's love for us is independent of any other relationship we have.

The third idea is that it's only about us and God. Whether we relate to the prodigal son or the other son, the parable is really about living your life between you and God and not worrying about keeping score with anyone else. The lesson is the same, wherever we are in our journey with Christ. It's about the personal relationship with God and recognizing that no matter our thoughts or actions, he loves us and welcomes us with open arms when we turn to him.

This parable is one about God's love for us. As we each have our own families, the church is also our family. God's love for us does not leave us if we drift. We need to know that God's love for us will always be there, no matter what stage of our life we are in or what we may face. God is love — unconditional love.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 22, 2021 | In-Person at 10a | Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Preparation for **Worship**

"The soul without imagination is what  
an observatory would be without a telescope."

*Henry Ward Beecher*

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 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Page

Introit "We Praise You, O God" Lawes

\* Call to Worship Psalm 8:1, 3-5, 8

Leader: O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**People: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;**

Leader: What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?

**People: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**All: Let us worship God!**

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\* Hymn No. 386

"Come, Worship God"

O QUANTA QUALIA

\* Prayer of Confession

**Holy and gracious God,  
we know that our love has been narrow and fallen flat.  
We have let our fears determine our decisions,  
and preferred to swim in shallow waters with our faith.  
We have pursued trivial dreams, engaged in petty jealousies,  
and let old wounds rule our lives.  
Forgive us, and give us a new imagination this day.  
Help us to practice faith without fear;  
to strive for compassion instead of control;  
and to let go of that which keeps us from living your vision  
of peace, justice, and love.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

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

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

\* 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

*Louise Springs Hipp*

Congregational Response

"Baptized in Water"

Bunessan

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 55:6-9*

p. 598

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 15:11-32*

p. 850

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*"They Began to Celebrate"*

## 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.**

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Choral Call to Prayer "Rest In Me O Weary Traveler" Dunstan

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

Offertory "In the Midst of New Dimensions" Bankson

\* 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. 774 STUTTGART

"There Is Now a New Creation"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Response "Glory Be to the Father" Lawes

\* Postlude "Praise Him with the Sound of the Trumpet" Simone

*\*All who are able may stand*

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Leading in Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Nancy Giguere, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Ross Glidewell, *head usher*

Jeff Beck, Brian Blount, *greeters*

## **In Memoriam**

The Reverend Vernon Miller  
(12/31/1929 - 8/14/2021)

## **We Remember in Prayer**

The family of the Reverend  
Vernon Miller

*"I am the resurrection and the life."  
- John 11:25*

## **With Thanksgiving We Celebrate**

### **BIRTH**

The birth of a son, *Jackson Donald Ballinger*, to Bill & Erin Ballinger on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

## **Join Us in Welcoming**

### **BAPTISM**

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Louise Springs Hipp*, daughter of William & Candice Hipp.

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC**

### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Children are invited to bring their backpack for a blessing on August 29 at 9:30a in the Sanctuary Atrium. Along with prayers for a year of learning and growing, they'll receive a backpack tag to remind them of God's love through the school year. Join us as we celebrate and pray for a new school year!

### **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.

Our Fall Schedule will resume on September 12th.

## **OPEN MINDS • Giving@WPC**

### **RISE AGAINST HUNGER:**

Make plans to stay after worship on Sunday, September 5th (Labor Day Weekend) for Rise Against Hunger, a fun opportunity for folks of all ages to make a collective impact. Together, we will alleviate hunger by packing 20,000 life-sustaining meals for communities across the globe, including those where Westminster has partnerships in Africa and the Caribbean. Meal packing will take place in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship, and volunteers are also needed to set up and clean up. Registration is strongly encouraged: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/WestminsterPres2021> Questions? Contact Julia Watkins.

# **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC**

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

RETURNS SEPTEMBER 19-25

Extend hospitality to families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), which helps people experiencing homelessness achieve self-sufficiency and fulfillment. Through IHN, Westminster welcomes parents and children to stay in the church as they work toward sustainable independence. Volunteers are needed to stay overnight, prepare meals, extend fellowship, grocery shop, and offer on-call medical advice. Questions? Contact Kelly Taylor ([bkewc.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:bkewc.taylor@gmail.com)).

In preparation for IHN, the Women of Westminster will be collecting the following items between August 15–September 15:

travel sizes of deodorant,	toothpaste/toothbrush/
soap,	mouthwash,
shampoo/conditioner,	hairbrushes,
male/female razors (disposable),	shower caps,
shaving cream/gel,	

as well as G-rated DVDs, new or like-new family games, craft items, and kid-friendly puzzles. Drop off outside the front office.

## **OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC**

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR CHORISTERS RETURN!**

We are pleased to welcome back the Junior Choristers (gr. 1-2) and Senior Choristers (gr. 3-5) on Wednesday afternoons. These choirs meet immediately following the It's Elementary program from 4:30 until 5:15 and are led by Katie Knauer and Mark Kemp. We are fortunate to have large meeting spaces to allow us to safely spread out, and all participants will be required to wear masks. This will also be a great opportunity to explore making music with a variety of instruments to increase our musical vocabulary. Please register your child on the event registration page at [wpc-online.org](http://wpc-online.org). Please contact Katie Knauer ([kknauer@wpc-online.org](mailto:kknauer@wpc-online.org)) or Mark Kemp ([mkemp@wpc-online.org](mailto:mkemp@wpc-online.org)) for more information.



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## **OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC**

### **BAPTISM CLASS**

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, September 12, at 4p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

### **MOVIE GROUP**

The Movie Group will meet on Sunday, August 29. A movie will be selected when the schedule is released. We generally meet to watch a movie, then gather afterward at a restaurant for discussion and fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join us. For more information, contact Susan Robbins (270-6747 or jamrobbins@aol.com) and you will be put on our email list.

### **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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 22 - 29, 2021

### **Sunday, August 22**

#### **13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 9:00a Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Fellowship in the Atrium
- 11:15 Youth Group Orientation/  
Parent Meeting
- 2:00p Youth Group Advisor Training

### **Wednesday, August 25**

- 12:00p It's Elementary Volunteer Training  
Luncheon Group Meeting
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **Sunday, August 29**

#### **14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 9:30a Blessing of the Backpacks
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Fellowship in the Atrium
- 5:00p Youth Group Kick-Off

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CHURCH STAFF

Ben Dorr  
Pastor & Head of 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*