



Baptism of the Lord

Preparation for **Worship**

“No one who came to the Jordan was as laden and as afflicted as He. No one was as needy. No one so utterly human, because so fellow-human...He stands alone in this, He who was elected and ordained from all eternity to partake of the sin of all in His own person, to bear its shame and curse in the place of all, to be the man responsible for all, and as such, wholly theirs, to live and act and suffer. This is what Jesus began to do when He had Himself baptized by John with all the others. This was the opening of His history as the salvation history of all the others.” – Karl Barth

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.**

Minute for History: WPC@75

Susan Reed

Prelude "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Smith

Introit 11:15a "Surely" Langston

* Call to Worship Psalm 29:1-4

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
People: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.
People: **The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another.
We allow the past to hold us hostage.
In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin.
Remind us of the promises you make in baptism,
so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.
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

Eleanor Grace Serieno (9a)

Addison James Riner (11:15a)

Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Bunesan



Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson, *Romans 6:1-4*

p. 917

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 3:21-22*

p. 834

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Where's the Water?"

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.**

Call to Prayer 11:15a "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

Offertery "Shall We Gather at the River" arr. Ferguson

* 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. 490 "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters" BEACH SPRING

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response "Yes, We'll Gather at the River" Lowry

* Postlude "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" arr. Limbaugh

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Mae Todd Mullins (9a), Mary Ashmore (11:15a), *sponsors*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Mark Kemp (9a), *tenor*

Biff Dickerson (9a), Bill Young (11:15a), *lay readers*

Paul Grier (9a), Elizabeth Palmer (11:15a), *head ushers*

Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell,

Jara Jones, Meg McKnight (9a), *greeters*

Toni Paylor, Neil Shurley, Michael Dixon,

Lesley Usher, LeAnne White (11:15a), *greeters*

Molly Willis, Charlotte Willis (9a), Grier Clark, Mary Evans Howayeck (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

WELCOME TO WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

PRAYER REQUESTS

As a congregation that prays with and for one another, Westminster invites you to share your prayer requests using the cards located in the Ritual of Friendship pad at the end of each pew. You may complete a card and leave it in the offering plate so that the pastors and/or prayer chain team may pray for you. If you wish to join the prayer chain, please indicate that on your card.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning at the 9a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship Eleanor Grace Serieno, daughter of Doug & Jenna Serieno.

This morning at the 11:15a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship Addison James Riner, daughter of Michael & Mary-Catherine Riner.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTHS

The birth of a son, *Adam Walker Breaux, Jr.*, to Adam & Deshia Breaux on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

The birth of a son, *Riggs Foster Jackson*, to Matt & Lindsay Jackson on Friday, December 17, 2021.

We Remember in Prayer

Jeff Beck on the death of his father, Ken Beck, in Greenville - 12/25/2021.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined) – will meet on Friday, January 21, at 7p at the home of Amy Grace (8 Bachman Ct). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's website ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, January 3, we have received \$2,197,097 in pledges toward our 2022 budget goal of \$2,520,968.

For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women are invited to join Women of Westminster at Montreat for their annual retreat.

February, 25-27, 2022

Register online at www.wpc-online.org.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Tuesday, January 11

- **Circle #3**, by Zoom at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, January 12

- **Circle #6**, by Zoom at 9a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for this Sunday, January 9, 2022, immediately following the 11:15a worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is threefold:

- To vote on the proposed terms of call for 2022 for our pastoral staff;
- To receive the 2022 operating budget;
- To elect 1 elder (Class of 2024) and 12 elders (Class of 2025) to the Session; and 1 trustee (Class of 2027)

The proposed slate being presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

Elders: Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter, Laura Cox, Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman, Susan Grier, Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt, Ginny Reed, Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman

Trustee: Sue Inman

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424

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Church Staff

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

Leigh Stuckey
Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

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

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Julia Watkins
Associate Pastor
jwatkins@wpc-online.org

Amos Workman
Parish Associate
aworkman@wpc-online.org

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

Lauren Hood
Associate Director of Youth Ministry
lhood@wpc-online.org

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

Nancy Smith
Organist
nsmith@wpc-online.org

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

Sherri Owens
Financial Secretary
sherri@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

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

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 9 - 16, 2022

Sunday, January 9

Baptism of the Lord

9:00a Worship Service
Witness & Service
Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p Annual Congregational Meeting
4:30 Women of Westminster Leadership Meeting
5:00 Personnel Committee Meeting
Youth Meeting/Dinner

Monday, January 10

6:30p Called Session Meeting

Tuesday, January 11

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting
Gifts & Gratitude Meeting (Zoom)
2:00 Circle #3 Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 12

9:00a Circle #6 Meeting (Zoom)
2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
2:45 It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 13

12:00p Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 16

Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
12:45 Connections Group

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Divine Interventions:

Creation and (re)Creation in Genesis Room 209

Explore Scripture's earliest and most misunderstood stories in a new adult Sunday School class that began January 2. Over the course of four weeks we will study the two accounts of creation, the story of the fall, the great flood, and the tower of Babel. Led by Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey, streaming at wpc-online.org.

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Alissa Edwards

I grew up going to First Baptist Church here in Greenville. As you may or may not know, in the Baptist church, you choose as a young person when you feel ready to be baptized and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Before I made the decision to be baptized at FBC, our family moved churches and started attending Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. Now, from what I can remember, because that was almost twenty-eight years ago, I came to the decision that I wanted to be baptized. My mom explained to me that in the Presbyterian church, babies were baptized, there would be a baptismal font, and I wouldn't be submerged in a baptismal pool. So, when I was twelve years old, I was baptized at Grace Covenant. I remember feeling a little nervous about standing up in front of the congregation and getting baptized, because I had never seen a young person get baptized at this church, only babies. But this experience was very special to me as a young person. I was able to make the decision to follow Christ.

On the Sundays that we baptize at Westminster, we sing this hymn:

*"Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit,
we are God's children -
joyfully now God's praises we sing."*

I love this verse of this hymn. I love that we sing it every time a baby is baptized. Baptism is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians; communion is the other. The act of baptism is simple-but in a handful of water, there is a deep meaning. In baptism we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples. God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the way and will of God.

In our scripture passage, we learn of the baptism of Jesus. Jesus is baptized, and heaven opens with the Holy Spirit coming down in the form of a dove. A voice from heaven says, "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." Christians believe that Jesus was baptized so he could become like one of us. This shows great humility. He set an example for us to follow. I'm so glad that we have that opportunity.



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE FIRST DECADE 1947-1957**

It was August 1957 and Westminster members were celebrating 10 years since the church was founded. I was 6 years old, having been born into and baptized at Westminster, where my parents were charter members. During its first decade, Westminster had prospered and grown into a thriving family of faith in the newly developing Augusta Road area. Also during that first decade, the congregation had grown steadily from the 23 committed Christians from First Presbyterian Church who met on Mother's Day in May 1947 to plan the new church. Within a short time, membership reached 100 and Enoree Presbytery granted permission to formally charter Westminster Presbyterian Church. The first Sunday was August 10, 1947, and the congregation met in a circus tent erected on the corner of West Augusta Place and Augusta Drive – the current site of our Columbarium.

Westminster called its first full time pastor, Dwight M. Chalmers, in February 1948, following the initial 18 months being served by a number of theologians from Enoree Presbytery and Presbyterian College. Dr. Chalmers served from 1948-1955. Our second pastor, John A. Haley, was called in 1956 and served until 1966.

By 1957 membership exceeded 600, with Sunday school enrollment over 800. The church was worshipping in its first permanent sanctuary, located on the second floor of the Winn Building on Augusta Drive. The sanctuary was designed with 400 theatre style seats and was originally cooled by a number of oscillating fans mounted along the walls. The choir was located in the front, behind the pastor.

During the first decade, the young church's giving increased from the initial six month budget of \$18,155 to a total budget of \$55,280 in 1957. Westminster's longstanding commitment to benevolences was obvious in the 1957 budget, when over \$4K was committed to local and foreign missions.

The physical plant grew from a circus tent to a sanctuary and education building valued at \$266K. Through the first decade, Westminster was a committed family of faith on whose shoulders we stand today. It was a congregation who consistently stepped up to the challenges of the new church with 100% of the congregation making pledges in the first year.

I am so proud to be beginning my 72nd year in our wonderful church.

Fred Carpenter

My thanks to Sue Inman for her incredible book, Growing in Faith – A History of Westminster Presbyterian Church (2007). Her book was a great source of information for this, the first in a series of monthly articles on Westminster's history.

WPC@75

In 2022 we are celebrating 75 years of transformative ministry in Greenville. You'll hear more about our plans for celebrating, and be able to learn about WPC thru the decades with monthly Minutes for History Harbinger inserts like this one from Fred Carpenter.



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