



Second Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

Save us, O Lord, from being self-centered in our prayers, and teach us to remember to pray for others. May we be so caught up in love for those for whom we pray, that we may feel their needs as keenly as our own, and pray for them with imagination, sensitivity, and knowledge. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

John Calvin

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 *Cara Puntch*

Prelude Medley on His Love arr. N. Smith

Introit 11:15a "Guide Us, Lord" Patterson

* Call to Worship Psalm 27:1, 7, 13-14

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
 People: **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

People: **I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.**

Leader: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" CWM Rhondda

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we have become experts at deceiving ourselves. Rather than accepting the truth about the ways we live and love, we have been guided by idols and illusion. We have sought the affirmation of others, denied our own need for grace, and shied away from the work that repentance requires. Forgive us, Holy One, and remake us in the image of your Son. Help us to prize obedience to your will and way above all else. Let us not fear the narrow road, so that we would be ready to bear one another's burdens, and to live sacrificially for neighbor and stranger alike. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 9a *Charles McCants Frazier*
 11:15a *James Maddoc Patterson*

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.

Anthem 11:15a The 23rd Psalm Taylor

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Genesis 15:1-6* p.10
 Gospel Lesson, *Luke 13:31-35* p. 849

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Sorrow of Jesus"

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.

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 "Wayfaring Stranger" Larkin

* 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. 740 "Lead Me, Guide Me" LEAD ME, GUIDE ME
 Please stand and join in singing the second time through.

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response 11:15a "Share God's Love" Patterson

* Postlude "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him" arr. Phillips

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Susan Jones (9a), Kevin Lancaster (11:15a), *sponsors*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Mark Kemp (9a), George Blount (11:15a), *soloists*

The Junior and Senior Choristers, (11:15a)

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Susan McLarty (9a), Laura Coker (11:15a), *lay readers*

Jason Farmer (9a), Ross Glidewell (11:15a), *head ushers*

Lesley Usher, LeAnne White, Russ Williams, Toni Paylor, Neil Shurley, (9a), *greeters*

Jara Jones, Meg McKnight, Emily Busby, Hastings Blumer,

Jay Culclasure (11:15a), *greeters*

Daniel Knauer (9a), George Blount (11:15a), *acolytes*

OPEN HEARTS • Caring@WPC

Westminster has designated funds through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support partners on the ground in and around Ukraine. Additional offerings may be designated "Ukraine."

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning at the 9a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship Charles McCants Frazier, son of Jim & Julia Frazier.

This morning at the 11:15a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship James Maddoc Patterson, son of Grady & Kate Patterson.

This morning we welcome The Reverends Ludwig & Jean Weaver at the 11:15a service. Lud & Jean are honorably retired from Foothills Presbytery and Westminster Presbyterian and are the grandparents of James Maddoc Patterson.

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.

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.

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.

We Remember in Prayer

Brian Blount on the death of his father, John William Blount, in Winston-Salem, NC - 3/7/2022.

OPEN HEARTS • Caring@WPC

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.

DR Surgical Trip

Interested in contributing to the health and wellness of our neighbors in the Dominican Republic? Consider signing up for WPC's DR Surgical Trip (October 22-29). Volunteers of all backgrounds needed, especially those with surgical/medical or Spanish-speaking skills. Attend an information session to learn more: March 20 and April 3 from 12:30-1pm in Room 212. Questions? Write "DR Trip" on your Connection Card.

JOIN WPC'S HOSPITALITY TEAM

Are you a "do-er" looking to connect with others while contributing to WPC's culture of welcome? Consider serving on the Hospitality Team! Hospitality Team participants will receive regular invitations to help with events like the basketball banquet, church suppers, and after-worship donuts. Contact Julia Watkins or write "Hospitality Team" on a Connection Card to get involved.

IHN Update

Interfaith Hospitality Network, which has historically housed families with children experiencing homelessness in congregational buildings, including WPC's, is evaluating its programs in order to provide the best service possible. Following the pandemic, IHN served 95 individuals in 2021 and will continue housing families in hotels as emergency shelter through at least June. In a time of so much change and uncertainty, IHN's commitment to serving families with children experiencing homelessness is as deep as ever. Thank you for your support!

OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE

Tuesday, March 15

- **Circle #7**, 6p at home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr., 29605) Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

Interested in joining a Circle? Write "Circles" on a Connection Card.

SAVE THE DATE
WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
SPRING GATHERING
SUNDAY, APRIL 10

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME:
 Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour this Sunday, March 13.

SUPPERS WITH SEVEN APRIL – MAY 2022

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to think about getting out and doing things. What about enjoying meals with other Westminster members? "Suppers With Seven" is seven (or so) persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals at a time convenient to the group. It is a great way to establish or renew relationships with other Westminster members. To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Suppers With Seven page. Or, if you'd like someone to contact you, write "Suppers with 7" on your Connection Card. *The deadline to sign up is Monday, March 21.*

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.

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 13 - 20, 2022

Sunday, March 13

Second Sunday in Lent

Confirmation Retreat at Montreat

Daylight Savings Time begins

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 4:30p Women of Westminster Leadership Planning Meeting
- 5:00 Middle Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Middle Choir Rehearsal Senior High Youth Group

Monday, March 14

- 7:00p Youth Parent Workshop

Tuesday, March 15

- 12:00p AI-Anon Group Meeting
- 6:30 Circle 7 Meeting

Wednesday, March 16

- 9:30a Weekday Chapel
- 9:45 Weekday Chapel
- 10:00 Weekday Chapel
- 2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
- 2:45 It's Elementary Bible Bowl
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 18

Session Retreat at Montreat

Saturday, March 19

Session Retreat at Montreat

Sunday, March 20

Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Dominican Republic Surgical Trip Informational Meeting Stated Session Meeting

the
HARBINGER
 open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Lauren Hood

Last Thursday, in the middle of my appointment, my esthetician asked, "What's Lent?" At first, I was surprised, but we ended up having a beautiful conversation about the commemoration of Jesus' time in the desert, using this time to take up a spiritual practice, and more. Her question wasn't what surprised me. It was the number of times I would answer that same question in a week. The Sunday before we had a Lent lesson in Youth Group, then a friend asked, then another friend, then my family, and so on. By the end of last week, I had my Lent elevator pitch perfected!

However, my definition has evolved much in the past decade or so. Middle school Lauren definitely thought Lent was a random reason to give up chocolate or soda for 40 days. I clearly remember on a field trip to Washington D.C. in 8th grade, our Catholic friends anxiously searched for fish meals, others convinced themselves Sprite didn't count as soda, and another group contemplated if dessert was allowed on Sundays. It all seemed silly to me yet extremely stressful and full of rules.

Around senior year of high school, a new definition emerged. One that focused less on giving something up, suffering, or arbitrary rules, but more on how we can refocus our attention to God. That resonated with me more. What can I add to my life to help me refocus on God? How can I become more aware of the Holy Spirit in our world? Is giving this thing up helping me refocus on God?

Lent is a beautiful opportunity to begin a morning ritual of reflective writing, having silent prayer on a morning walk, or intentionally texting one friend a day to check in. You may also find that giving something up, like social media, is a helpful way to refocus on God.

Rather than depriving ourselves from that yummy Easter candy, I encourage each of you to pick a discipline to add to your day that refocuses your attention to God. How can you intentionally pause to look for God in your life?



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE THIRD DECADE 1967-1977**

Sue Inman's wonderful 2007 book, *Growing in Faith, A History of Westminster Presbyterian Church*, called the church's third decade (1967-1977) "Early Adolescence." During this period, Westminster experienced growth and prosperity as well as some very difficult years, very similar to the life of an adolescent. Following John Haley's departure at the end of 1966, membership stood at 877 and we were fortunate to be led by two distinguished interim pastors. Dr. Marion Boggs, former Moderator of the General Assembly, served us for six months, followed by Dr. Joseph Gettys, Academic Dean of Presbyterian College in Clinton.

We celebrated Westminster's 20th anniversary in 1967 and I remember my mother being very busy as chair of that committee. It was a wonderful look back. A number of ministers, whom had either served the church or were instrumental in our founding, were on hand to participate in the event. Also in 1967, the Ritual of Friendship was created and is still used today to record members, visitors, and those wishing to join the church.

In the fall of 1967, Robert (Bob) P. Piephoff, a recent graduate of Columbia Seminary, was called and ordained as Assistant Pastor. (Bob would leave a year later to pursue post-graduate study.) Not long after Bob was hired, the Pastor Nominating Committee, chaired by Elder B.K. Bryan, presented the name of Dr. Alfred B. Montgomery, an Edinburgh PhD, as Westminster's third Senior Pastor. The church continued to grow following Al's arrival, and a number of hallmark events occurred in the life of the church over the next few years.

In 1968 Westminster became the first home for Meals on Wheels, Inc., which had been recently formed in Greenville. Many WPC members have delivered meals, served on the Board, and financially supported MOW for over 50 years. We continued ongoing support of the Jane Russell Chapel of Parker Heights, as well as other local missions.

In mid-July 1969, H. Alan Elmore was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor. Westminster's involvement in social issues continued throughout this period. Encounter groups were formed to facilitate communication and understanding between black and white Christians. Our Weekday School continued to grow; by the early 70s it was financially self-supporting. We were becoming a larger church; however, the congregation had never been closer. I will always remember the church's response when my father at age 50 had a massive heart attack in the fall of 1970. Westminster held a prayer vigil around the clock while our family waited to see if he would survive. Thanks to the prayers, he did survive and served in the church for another 27 years.

In mid-1971 Elder Arthur Magill offered a challenge gift of \$100,000 to raise the necessary funds for a new fellowship building and gymnasium.



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The new facility was dedicated during Westminster's 25th Anniversary celebration in late 1972. This building served us quite well for several decades until it was demolished to make way for the construction of the 3-story building, which now houses our fellowship hall, kitchen, gym, and church school classrooms.

Ever at the forefront of social change, Westminster elected our first female Deacon, Virginia Rubin, and our first female Elder, Martha Carpenter, during its third decade. New fellowship groups and community groups were formed. A pulpit exchange was held between WPC and the Israel Metropolitan Christian AME church to continue the improvement of race relations in Greenville. Westminster's church governance also changed during this period, when the Deacons and Elders were combined into one body – forming a unicameral government for the church. In 1972 we saw our own Sara "Doodle" Payne become the first female graduate of Union Seminary in Richmond, and be ordained into the Presbyterian Church U.S.

By the end of 1972 our membership peaked at 1,113; we were a large, well-established church, and even participated in the formation of a new church – St. Giles Presbyterian. That prosperity did not last, however. During the next five years, the relationship with the Senior Pastor began to deteriorate and division on the Session began to form. Financial problems caused the church to experience a budget deficit for the first time in its history. I remember my father and some of the Elders going to a local bank to sign a short term note to solve some of the immediate needs. During this dark period, church membership declined from a peak of over 1,100 members in 1972 to a low of 878 by 1976. Despite the exodus of many members, there were dedicated people I remember being more determined than ever to continue pursuing goals of Christian education, spiritual growth, pastoral care, fellowship, evangelism, and many others. In January 1977, Al Montgomery tendered his resignation as Senior Pastor and left by early summer.

A new Pastor Nominating Committee was installed shortly thereafter; however, for the next 19 months, Westminster was without a Senior Pastor. Fortunately, Associate Pastor Roy Lindahl and a dedicated Session held our family of faith together during this period. Although membership stood at a low of 741, better days were ahead.

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 third in a series of monthly articles on Westminster's history.

WPC@75 There's something for everyone!

Mark your calendars as we celebrate our 75 years of transformative ministry in Greenville.

- May 15th – Worship Service & Luncheon
- August 20th – All hands on deck to pack 75,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger
- September 22nd – Gala Celebration at the Poinsett Club

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