



Second Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

*In the bright heat of summer, we shield our eyes and search the skies for you.
We dig in our garden dirt for your life, your promise of nurture.
In the calm death of fall, we watch leaves ride on your wind,
watch animals sprint across roads and through acres of grass to fill up on life.
In the swallowing up of snowstorms in winter, we hide under covers,
we snuggle by fires to see that you still burn bright, you still reach us.
And in spring, you usher us back to life, beckon us to the sun with mild blooms
and glorious stretches of hiking graveled paths and tasting rainwater.
We see, then, that you're there always, that you're here, living and breathing over all of it.
May we know your world, may we serve it and let it serve us, all for the love of you. Amen.*
- Kaitlin B. Curtice, **Glory Happening**

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.**

Introducing the 2022 Heritage Lecture Speaker

Prelude "Songs of Creation" Caudill
Introit (11:15a) "This Is God's Wondrous World" Sheppard

* Call to Worship

Leader: God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, earth itself."
People: **God created human beings; God created them in God's image, reflecting God's nature.**
Leader: God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill the earth! Take charge!"
People: **God looked over everything God had made; and indeed, it was very good.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE

* Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned against you and your creation by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We confess that the earth groans under the wounds of environmental abuse. We confess that we have failed to care for your creation, leaving the scars of our dominion where once sang your glory. Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to the needs and suffering of your creation, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, forgive us. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation that we may show forth your glory to the world. 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.

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Lesson, *Psalm 8:1-9*

p. 427

New Testament Lesson, *Romans 8:18-25*

p. 919

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "God's Creation Needs the Church; God's Church Needs Creation"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith, from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted in our care. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Choral Call to Prayer (11:15a)

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

Solo (9a) "Hallelujahs" Rice
Anthem (11:15a) "Emerald Stream" Houston

* 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 #370 "This Is My Father's World" TERRA BEATA

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response (11:15a) "God Be with You" Tomer

* Postlude "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" Paxton

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

The Reverend Dr. Leah Schade, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Julie Florin, *guest organist*

Shawn Salley, *soloist* (9a)

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Julia Freedman (9a), Kathryn Rowan (11:15a), *lay readers*

Jacob Barker (9a), Paul Grier (11:15a), *head ushers*

Parks Workman, Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt,

Ginny Reed, Jordan Smith (9a), *greeters*

Susan Grier, Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter,

Lindsey Donlan, Lesley Usher (11:15a), *greeters*

Molly Willis (9a), Harrison Dillard, Thomas Dillard (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.

Our Nursery provides a welcoming environment from children ages crib through 4K. Nursery is staffed by 6 paid staff each week. To support the growing needs of our nursery, we encourage members to volunteer in the nursery, alongside the paid staff, to build relationships with children and nurture them. You can sit, stand, play – however you feel most comfortable engaging. Children enjoy a wide variety of personalities, because they are too. If you'd like to know more, email Aly Friend, alyfriend@wpc-online.org or write Nursery on your connection card.

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.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 1, begins the Summer Schedule:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
No Sunday School

In Memoriam

Claudia Abel
(6/10/1931 - 4/16/2022)

Tim Cherry
(9/9/1949 - 4/18/2022)

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

We Remember in Prayer

Chris Woodard on the death of his mother, Susan Dukes Webber, in Orangeburg, SC - 4/2/2022.

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.

OPEN MINDS • Mentoring@WPC
CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL JOB FAIR

Are you an employer or connected to potential employers? You can help facilitate a Carolina High School job fair on April 27th. We are in need of employers as well as volunteers willing to help contact participants. Please contact Paul O'Neal at pauloneal@aol.com for more information.

HANDS ON GREENVILLE
DAY OF SERVICE
APRIL 30, 8A-12P

Mark your calendar for a church-wide day of service with Soteria on Saturday, April 30 from 8a-12p. Hands on Greenville is a community wide service initiative sponsored by the United Way. WPC is a named sponsor of the event, and we're thrilled to partner with Soteria to help them clean up their women's house (recently purchased with the help of Westminster), men's house, and main site. We hope you (and your family!) will join us. Childcare will be provided at Westminster. Sign up for HOG day (and childcare) at wpc-online.org or write "HOG Day" on your Connection Card. Following our time with Soteria you are invited to Fluor Field for lunch, beverages, and a celebration of the community.

OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC
CONNECTIONS GROUP

The Connections Luncheon Group will meet this Sunday, April 24, at 12:45p at Limoncello's (401 River St). Make reservations with Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com or 864-201-6117). Newcomers are welcome!

CALLING ALL CHEFS!

The Weekday School is having their annual carnival on Friday, May 6, from 3-5p. If you are interested in donating a casserole or a baked good, please contact Cara Puntch at 232-5766 or cpuntch@wpc-online.org for more information. We would also love to see you stop by to join the fun!

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

Passionate about the environment? Consider joining the Creation Stewardship team. Creation Stewardship's next upcoming commitment will be collecting meal waste for composting after the 75th Anniversary luncheon on May 15th. Composting meal waste has much less warming effect on the atmosphere than landfilling the same material and lessens the burden on the world's poor people, who suffer the most from climate change. If you are interested in helping contact Bill Holt at 864 982 3368 or write "Creation Stewardship" on your Connection Card.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
April 24 - May 1, 2022

Sunday, April 24

Second Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Worship Service
 Creation Stewardship Meeting
 Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
 Heritage Lecture Speaker
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
- 12:45 Connections Group
- 5:00 Combined Youth Choir
- 6:00 Youth Dinners

Monday, April 25

- 4:00p Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 26

- 12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 27

- 10:30a Carolina High School Job Fair
- 2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
- 2:45 It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 28

Hiking Group Weekend

- 12:00p Endowment Committee Meeting

Friday, April 29

Hiking Group Weekend

Saturday, April 30

Hiking Group Weekend

Hands on Greenville Day

Sunday, May 1

Third Sunday of Easter

Music Sunday

- 9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
- 9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 One Worship Service
- 11:00 After Worship Reception honoring Nancy Smith

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Sarah Brice

I think it is safe to say that all of us who are fortunate enough to belong to Westminster Presbyterian Church are intensely moved by our musical program. Some are drawn to join by it, some join and then grow to love it, but all (I would venture to say) are elevated and transformed by the glorious expression of the faith which is exemplified in our music—truly fine music that we enjoy consistently, week in and week out. Be it through adult voices or children's voices; through organ, piano or other instruments--our overall church experience is exquisitely enhanced by these musical experiences.

Our scripture passage today is Psalm 8:1-9. Although some may be most impressed by its supremely confident expression of God's majesty, while others will be greatly awed to read of the dignity and accompanying responsibility God has bestowed on us humans--as for me, I particularly delight in all the music this passage has inspired. With only a little research, I have learned that at least nine of my very favorite hymns and one spiritual derive from these nine verses in the book of Psalms. Below you will find an alphabetical list of these nine hymns along with their number in our current hymnal, Glory to God, the Presbyterian Hymnal, and the much-loved spiritual is listed last. May I suggest that you take the time to read the comforting, yet challenging, words to all stanzas of the following beloved pieces:

- All Creatures of Our God and King (15)
- All Glory Laud and Honor (196)
- For the Beauty of the Earth (14)
- From all That Dwell Below the Skies (327)
- How Great Thou Art (625)
- I Sing the Mighty Power of God (32)
- Let All the World in Every Corner Sing (636)
- Praise My Soul the King of Heaven (620)
- This is my Father's World (370)
- He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Just a superficial reading of the words of the above ten musical pieces will reveal the profound truth that our God is omnipresent in all elements of our beautiful world. Our astute minister of music, Mark Kemp, has chosen for our Hymn of Praise today, "I Sing the Mighty Power of God," number 32 in our hymnal. Very appropriately, the last line of stanza three reads, "Thou, God, art present there." In all elements of creation, the great, glorious and faithful God is revealed. As Psalm Eight: verse one, sums it up, "How majestic is thy name in all the earth!"



Vacation Bible School 2022
August 1-5
for rising Kindergarteners through
rising 5th graders.

Registration is open NOW!

Mark your calendars and join us for Westminster Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School 2022 - To Mars and Beyond! Children will spend the week discovering the wonders of God's universe and exploring where God's power can take them. Registration opened Sunday, March 27, and runs through Sunday, May 1. Register online at the link on our website. If you have questions or would like to know more, please write VBS on your connection card. VBS needs volunteers! Please join us for a fun and fulfilling week with many volunteer opportunities! If you are interested in helping with VBS, contact Rachael Benson or Caroline Blouin at vbs@wpc-online.org.



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE FOURTH DECADE 1977-1987**

The fourth decade since Westminster's founding was like a new beginning. Following the tumultuous times in the previous ten years, God's faithfulness brought Zane M. Moore as our new Pastor in late 1978. "A church in pain," according to Zane, was also a church that had remained faithful to its mission and was more than ready to begin healing and prospering. Dr. Moore set a goal to visit every family in the church and he did so over the course of a year. My recollection of Zane's first few years was his focus on all things that were in good shape, upon which we could build. The longstanding core leadership remained active and committed; the music program under Bing Vick was the best in the city. Westminster members were active in a number of leadership roles at Presbytery and Synod levels; our commitment to local and foreign missions was growing.

In June 1979 Westminster's Session elected Alma Steading as its first female Clerk. Later that year, Randall Boggs was ordained and installed as Interim Associate Pastor, a role he served for one year. Also during that year, WPC supported and sponsored two church members who felt called to attend seminary – Tom Robinson and Becky Taylor.

In the summer of 1980, Richard Carpenter was elected Commissioner to the General Assembly and Gordon Beam was elected to represent our Presbytery at the Synod of the Southeast. In June 1981, Westminster ordained and installed Susie B. Smith, the first female pastor to be called in our Presbytery. Susie and Zane were a perfect combination and reflected real synergy in leading our congregation. Pastoral care had never been stronger in our church's history. For anyone who was at WPC during those years, Zane and Susie were a memorable duo.

In 1982 another milestone occurred when The Presbyterian Counseling Center opened on our campus – a mission of several Presbyterian churches. We also began a children's summer daycare program at Piedmont Manor, an impoverished apartment project a short distance from Westminster. This program was the genesis of The Pleasant Valley Community Center, which continues to thrive today – largely through support from our strong commitment to local missions.

Our Heritage Lecture Series began in 1982 through a generous gift by Robert J. Maxwell. The initial and subsequent gifts created a trust that has funded the Heritage Lecture Series over the years and has brought us many extremely well-known authors and theologians, including Phillip Yancey and M. Scott Peck. During a morning worship service in 1982, a ceremony was held when the church's mortgage was burned in a collection plate, signifying the end of WPC's debt on its facilities. Being debt free allowed us to significantly increase benevolences and mission giving, up 44% to \$107K. Over the previous five years giving had grown by 83% to \$430K.

In 1983 the northern and southern branches of our denomination, apart for 120 years, were reunited to form the PCUSA. My Session class that year was the first class in the country ordained under the reunited church. During that year Mildred Wilson was hired to lead Children's Ministries, including oversight of the Westminster Weekday School.

In 1984 Westminster held its first capital funds drive since the early 60's that raised over \$400K to do significant work on our facilities. Additionally, WPC donated \$100K to Gateway House to purchase its first apartment building for its members. Long time church secretary, Martha Hebb, retired in 1984 after 30 years of service. Our sexton, James Gambrell, also retired that year after 35 years of service. By yearend 1985, membership had grown from a low point of 741 in the prior decade to 1,046. Zane Moore resigned as Senior Pastor in 1986 to become President of Thornwell Home and School for Children.

Fred Carpenter

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Mark your calendars for these 75th celebration events:

- May 15, Sunday 10a Worship Service and bbq luncheon (reservations required)
- August 20, Saturday Mission Day - pack 75,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger
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April 24, 2022

The Reverend
Dr. Leah Schade



Dr. Leah D. Schade is Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. She earned both her MDiv and PhD degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary). An ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for twenty years, prior to her current professorship, she pastored three Pennsylvania congregations in suburban, urban, and rural contexts. Dr. Schade also served as an adjunct Religion and Philosophy Instructor at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, and Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA, teaching courses on ethics, religion, gender and ecology.

Dr. Schade's dissertation focused on homiletics (preaching) and ecological theology (caring for God's creation)-two topics that have greatly informed her career in both academics and the ministry. She has been an anti-fracking and climate activist and advocate for environmental justice issues for nearly a decade, and is a trained workshop leader for Lutherans Restoring Creation, a grassroots movement helping congregations learn how to "go green." She has presented testimony at numerous state and federal hearings on several different environmental issues, and has also been featured on local radio talk shows and interfaith workshops on care-of-Creation issues.

Her publications include: *Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology, and the Pulpit* (Chalice Press, 2015); *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019); and *Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis*, which she co-edited with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. She has also written a Creation-centered Lenten devotional, *For the Beauty of the Earth* (Chalice Press, 2019) and is the "EcoPreacher" blogger for Patheos.com: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ecopreacher/>.

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The Reverend
Dr. Leah Schade



Dr. Leah D. Schade is Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. She earned both her MDiv and PhD degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary). An ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for twenty years, prior to her current professorship, she pastored three Pennsylvania congregations in suburban, urban, and rural contexts. Dr. Schade also served as an adjunct Religion and Philosophy Instructor at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA, and Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA, teaching courses on ethics, religion, gender and ecology.

Dr. Schade's dissertation focused on homiletics (preaching) and ecological theology (caring for God's creation)-two topics that have greatly informed her career in both academics and the ministry. She has been an anti-fracking and climate activist and advocate for environmental justice issues for nearly a decade, and is a trained workshop leader for Lutherans Restoring Creation, a grassroots movement helping congregations learn how to "go green." She has presented testimony at numerous state and federal hearings on several different environmental issues, and has also been featured on local radio talk shows and interfaith workshops on care-of-Creation issues.

Her publications include: *Creation-Crisis Preaching: Ecology, Theology, and the Pulpit* (Chalice Press, 2015); *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019); and *Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis*, which she co-edited with Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. She has also written a Creation-centered Lenten devotional, *For the Beauty of the Earth* (Chalice Press, 2019) and is the "EcoPreacher" blogger for Patheos.com: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/ecopreacher/>.

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