



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

O Holy God, let this church present a religion as considerate of persons as the teaching of Jesus, as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets, as responsive to truth as science, as beautiful as art, as intimate as the home, and as indispensable as the air we breathe. Let all who gather here find welcome, and a place to share their prayers, their gifts, and their service. Amen.

—Adapted from The Preparation for Worship at The Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary Year on October 12, 1997.

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Announcements & Recognition of 75th Anniversary Guests

Minute for History: WPC@75 Sue Inman
 Prelude "Grand Choeur Dialogue" Gigout/Kuzma
 Introit "Surely" Langston

* Call to Worship Mary Kathleen Duncan

Leader: Praise ye the Lord.
People: The Lord's name be praised.
 Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up unto the Lord.
All: Let us worship God!

The Call to Worship is taken from The Celebration of the 20th Anniversary Year on 9/24/1967.

* Hymn of Praise #385 OLD ONE HUNDRETH
 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, far too often we have failed to live in the time in which you call us to live.
We become nostalgic for the past, when you ask us to live faithfully in the present.
Or we become content with the present, and close our hearts to the new thing your Spirit is doing for our future.
Or we convince ourselves that we made our own way in the world, forgetting about all the shoulders on which we stand.
Forgive us, O Lord, for our forgetfulness, idolatry, and shallow faith.
Grant us open minds and open hearts, so that we would discern the movement of your Holy Spirit in our midst, and follow the footsteps of Christ with courage, commitment, and compassion for all.
In the name of Jesus Christ 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.

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination Ludwig Weaver
 Gospel Lesson, *Genesis 12:1-4* p. 8
 Epistle Lesson, *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16* p. 977
 Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
 Sermon "By Faith" Ben Dorr

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith, *The Apostles' Creed* Lauren Slingerland

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.

* Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: For those whose faith, courage, Christian conviction, diligent effort, and financial sacrifice resulted in the building of this community of faith;
People: We thank you, O God.
 Leader: For all those people of God who have led your people in worship here, who have preached your word from this pulpit, and who have administered the sacraments to waiting and believing hearts;
People: We thank you, O God.
 Leader: For all those who have come to this place seeking you and who, in worshiping you in spirit and in truth, have found you;
People: We thank you, O God.
 Leader: For those who have brought their children here for Christian baptism, for those who have pledged their love to one another in this sanctuary, and for those who in Christian faith and trust have parted with a loved one and committed that loved one to your love and care;
People: We thank you, O God.
 Leader: For all those who have here confessed their faith in Jesus Christ, have united with the church, and have committed themselves to the Christian life;
People: We thank you, O God.
 Leader: For sins that have been confessed and for the forgiveness pronounced, for burdens that have been made easier to carry, for distressed and troubled hearts that have known the peace that passes all understanding, and for lives that have been inspired to new heights of love and service;
People: We thank you, O God.
All: For all your goodness and love revealed to us in this house of worship, we praise you and thank you, O God. Amen.

The Litany of Thanksgiving is taken from The Celebration of the 40th Anniversary Year on 9/27/1987.

Choral Call to Prayer "Live in Charity" Berthier
 Prayers of Intercession & Thanksgiving Leigh Stuckey
 The Lord's Prayer

* Offering
 Offertory "Christ is Our Cornerstone" Stopford
 * Doxology (*Hymnal, No. 606*)
 * Prayer of Dedication Amos Workman
 * Hymn #361 "O Christ the Great Foundation" AURELIA
 * Charge and Benediction
 * Choral Response "Glory Be to the Father" Stanford
 * Postlude "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" arr. Harmon

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*;
 Mary Kathleen Duncan, Ludwig Weaver, Lauren Slingerland,
 Leigh Stuckey, Amos Workman, *liturgists*
 Nancy Smith, *organist*
 The Chancel Choir, The Sanctuary Choir
 Westminster Brass: Craig King, Jason Ray, Anneka Zuehlke, Mark Britt,
 Connor Lynn, Shaw Shurley, Andrew Knauer
 Parks Workman, *head usher*
 Durden Collins, Kevin Lancaster, Tony Atkins, Jeff Beck, Emily Busby, *greeters*
 Milo Fowler, Ellen Reynolds, *acolytes*

Worship Notes

75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

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.

Susan Reed (*chair*)
 Fred Carpenter
 Alissa Edwards
 Lee Freeman
 Roger Gower
 Anne Nuttall
 Mary Ridgeway
 LeAnne White

The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Committee would like to express gratitude to all those who have contributed their time, work, and talent so generously to the year-long celebration of Westminster, and to the many decades of faithfulness that we celebrate today.

Particular gratitude is expressed for photography in our 75th Anniversary Harbinger this Sunday:

Phil McCreight (front cover),
 Parks McLeod, Jr. (exterior photography),
 Matthew Franklin Carter (staff headshots, interior photography).

And also to Sue Lile Inman for her history of Westminster, and to all the Westminster historians who preceded her.

MEMBERSHIP@WPC

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 5:30-7:30p on Wednesday, May 18. Those who attend the class are invited to become members during the 11:15a worship service on Sunday, May 22. Childcare is available. Please contact Julia Watkins (jwatkins@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC

YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES

Beginning the first week of May, join Mary Kathleen and Lauren for Bible studies! See details below:

- What does it mean to be Presbyterian?: All Sr. High Youth are invited to join Mary Kathleen in the Youth Suite every Wednesday at 7p in May! We will explore our identity as Presbyterians during this 4 week study.
- Relationships Bible Study: All current 8th graders are invited to join Lauren every Thursday at 4:30p in the Green Lot (Rain plan: Youth Suite). During this 4 week study, we will explore our relationships with God, ourselves, family, and peers.

Questions? Reach out to Mary Kathleen (mkduncan@wpc-online.org) or Lauren (lhood@wpc-online.org).

VISITATION MINISTRY

Can you spare one hour a month? Are you a good listener or a good conversationalist? If so, the WPC Visitation Ministry just might be a good fit for you. This ministry consists of volunteers who commit to visiting a fellow WPC member once a month. Recipients of this ministry are those who are elderly or are isolated and may no longer be able to attend church. If interested, contact Amos Workman (aworkman@wpc-online.org) or Janie Little (jrlittle42@gmail.com).

PROJECT HOST SOUP KITCHEN

This summer, serve alongside other WPC folks with partner agency, Project Host, whose mission is to use food as a tool to nourish the hungry and train the unemployed. Volunteers will prepare, serve, and clean up a meal for our vulnerable neighbors. This is a great way to extend hospitality while getting a glimpse of some of the inequities in our own backyard. Volunteer shifts for ages 15+ are 2nd Tuesdays (June 14, July 12, August 9), 9a-1p. Contact Julia Watkins or write "Project Host" on your Connection Card to sign up.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Women of Westminster offers scholarships to provide financial aid among college and graduate student membership within our church. This year, Westminster is also partnering with local agency, Fostering Great Ideas, so that a portion of funds will support college-bound students in the foster care system. Any Westminster member who will be furthering their education in the fall is eligible to apply. Applications are available from the church office or online at www.wpc-online.org. Applicants may contact Coleman Dixon (colemamdixon@hotmail.com) with any questions. The deadline is Friday, June 17, 2022. Church members are reminded that memorials and donations may be designated to this scholarship fund to aid in its continuation.

PLEASANT VALLEY SUMMER CAMP

This summer, WPC is partnering with Pleasant Valley Connection to offer enrichment opportunities with under-resourced children in their summer camp. Volunteers are needed to help with weekly programs (1:30-2:30pm, alternating M/T/W). Youth (12+) are welcome to volunteer; ages 12-13 must be accompanied by an adult. This is a fun opportunity to build relationships with our local outreach partners, enrich the lives of children, and learn about our community. Sign up here/Contact Julia Watkins or write "PVC" on your Connection Card.

OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC

LOW COUNTRY BOIL

Kick off the summer with shrimp, sausage, and plenty of stecca at WPC's Low Country Boil. Everyone's welcome to share in the fun at Brewery 85 on Sunday, June 5 from 5-7p. We will also celebrate Mark Kemp's ministry and send his family off with thanks. Childcare will be provided. RSVP on WPC's home page or write "LCB" on your Connection Card.

MEN OF THE CHURCH TO DRIVE GAME SUNDAY, JUNE 26 AT 3:05P

If interested, call Bob Vannoy (640-9073) or Amos Workman (423-0070), or call the church office to sign up. Deadline for signups is Monday, June 6.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 15-22, 2022

Sunday, May 15

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:40a	Sunday Session Meeting
10:00	75th Anniversary Worship Service
11:00	75th Anniversary BBQ Luncheon

Tuesday, May 17

12:00p	Al-Anon Group Meeting
6:30	Circle 7 Meeting
7:05	Youth to Drive Game

Wednesday, May 18

5:30p	New Member Class
7:00	Senior High Bible Study

Thursday, May 19

4:30p	8th Grade Bible Study
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Saturday, May 21

Presbytery Meeting

Sunday, May 22

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:40a	Sunday Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	New Member Reception
11:15	Stated Session Meeting
12:45p	Connections Group

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WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Tuesday, May 17

- **Circle 7**, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr., 29605) at 6:30p. Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

ATTENTION GRADUATES

We would like to list the names of our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 232-2424. The names will be listed in the **June 12** Harbinger.

Name: _____

School: _____

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXV | May 15, 2022 | No. 2

From the Pews, Neil Shurley

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

75 years.

It's been 75 years since twenty-three members of First Presbyterian Church first answered a call to venture forth from downtown Greenville and establish a new church at the very edges of the wilderness – Augusta Rd.

In those 75 years, Westminster Presbyterian Church grew from an idea to a tent to a small building known as "The Basement" to the stunning campus that now anchors the Augusta Rd. corridor.

In those 75 years, the people of Westminster have worshipped with six senior pastors, shepherded Meals on Wheels into existence, educated thousands of children through the Weekday School and the It's Elementary program, welcomed numerous challenging and thoughtful Heritage Lecturers, and led mission projects that have transformed lives in our own neighborhoods and across the world. Could those 23 dreamers possibly have seen where Westminster would be 75 years in their future?

75 years.

That's how old Abram was when God called him to venture forth into the wilderness, to set forth into the unknown, "to the land that I will show you."

What had Abram experienced in his 75 years of life? Married but childless, Abram lived comfortably with his extended family in the land of Haran. Genesis tells us he was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold. Surely, now that he was a wealthy 75 year old man, Abram sensed that his life was reaching its conclusion.

But then God called him, and told him to leave the country he knew, the family he knew, to travel hundreds of miles to an unfamiliar land where he would pitch a tent and build an altar to the Lord. Yet that was only the beginning. In the years to come, Abram would almost lose his wife to an Egyptian Pharaoh, bargain with God about showing compassion to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, launch a successful rescue of his nephew Lot, and demonstrate hospitality to strangers – angels – who visited him in the heat of day. But that was not all, for God made a promise to Abram, that he would become the father of a multitude of nations, and so God renamed him Abraham. And at an age so ludicrously old that it made his wife laugh, Abraham became a father. And even then his adventures had only just begun.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is now 75 years old. Surely it's time to rest on our laurels, to ease into our own comfortable existence. After all, we welcome strangers, we sustain mission partners. Our membership continues to grow, our programs continue to thrive. Surely we are doing things right. Surely there are no new adventures awaiting us. After all, it's been 75 years since God's "still, small voice" spoke to 23 people in downtown Greenville.

75 years.

Wait – did I just hear a still, small voice? What could God be calling us to do next?



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE FOURTH DECADE 1987-1997**

Closing the period of renewal and growth during Zane Moore's time at WPC, the church quickly turned its attention toward its future, calling former Pastor Dr. John Haley as its interim Senior Pastor. Work began right away to update the church's profile in preparation for calling a new pastor. Serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee were: Bill Kieffer (Chair), Martha Carpenter, Dave Edwards, Sam Inman, Lydia Kellett, Sara Payne, and Sam White.

Susie Smith and Roy Lindahl led the church while awaiting Dr. Haley's arrival.

One of the hallmark events to occur during this time was an amazing adult retreat led by Susie Smith at Camp Eva Good. Twelve retreat participants were taken through a period of preparation for the retreat by writing a brief personal spiritual history. Through long periods of silence and deep discussion, the group emerged with a deepened call as to how each person could better serve Christ's work in the world through their own spiritual gifts. Susie proved how talented she was at planning deeply moving retreats. Who could forget the family retreat at Bonclarken which was based on CS Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and the white stag that greeted us as we left that Sunday.

During this interim period many retired WPC members stepped up to use their professional experience to address a number of issues involving the physical plant and worked to install a new energy control system, update lighting and the sound system in the sanctuary.

The first week-long mission trip was taken by the Senior High Youth Group to Washington, DC, in an impoverished area, serving the homeless and working with underprivileged children. The retreat had a profound impact and led to the youth mission trips we have today. One of the highlights of 1986 was the passage of a motion to lead the congregation in a peace making endeavor based on Martin Luther King's "Living the Dream Pledge".

John Haley and Susie Smith didn't miss a beat in leading the congregation during this interim period in the life of the church. At the end of 1986 net membership stood at 1,057 – slightly ahead of the prior year by 11 members. In December 1986, the Pastor Nominating Committee put forth the name of The Reverend Ludwig Lee Weaver, Jr. to serve as Westminster's fifth Senior Pastor. Lud accepted the call and began work in February 1987. I served on Lud's first Session and quickly came to admire his vision for Westminster. No longer a young somewhat small neighborhood church, Westminster came of age as it drew large numbers of new members from all areas of the county.

In July 1987 Susie accepted a call to become Chaplain at Converse College. Before leaving WPC, she led a mission trip to Haiti. Surely Susie's challenging of Westminster members to open their hearts to the human condition made a lasting impression on the church.

1987 kicked off Westminster's 40th Anniversary with a rapidly growing congregation and a new Pastor with big plans. Over 500 church members attended the celebration in the gym. Jean Weaver was hired to fill the position of Parish Associate for congregational care and new member assimilation. The Pastor Nominating Committee presented the name of the Reverend Barbara S. Stoop as Associate Pastor. In 1988 Westminster called the Reverend Dan T. Hughs as Associate Pastor, now giving the church a staff of four pastors to meet the needs of the rapidly growing church. During this period, WPC increasingly turned its attention to both local and foreign missions.

In 1989 Lud Weaver set out on a month long trip to visit our missionaries in several foreign countries. In 1990, teaming up with Piedmont Manor Baptist Church, WPC began building its first Habitat for Humanity house on Pacific Avenue in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood. Upon retiring from his OB/GYN practice, Elder Clarence "Hots" Easley began a personal ministry in Lesotho (Africa) to work as a volunteer in the hospital there. This was the first of 11 trips Hots made to Africa and his ministry lasted for many years thereafter.

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and fellowship. By the end of 1990 the building committee was organized into seven subcommittees to begin addressing the long term needs to grow our facilities. In May 1991, after reviewing the proposals from several architectural firms, WPC selected Craig Gaulden Davis to develop a master plan, looking at existing buildings, surrounding properties, and both current and future needs for buildings and land. Mission trips continued; in June 1991, 42 members of the Senior Highs and their Advisors spent a week serving in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, on a trip they financed through a number of fund raising activities. During 1991-92 the Men of the Church became more active with breakfast meetings, camping trips and increased participation in great fellowship.

Also in 1991 WPC kicked off “Mission: Possible”, a major fundraising campaign to expand our facilities. By March 1992 \$2.1M had been pledged to the campaign, representing 88% of the congregation. Phase I of the building campaign began in late June with the Columbarium, as well as the addition to the Dodenhoff McGregor education building and the community hall. Construction continued throughout 1993. Overall, the new facilities would provide updated space for classrooms, meeting space, the Weekday School and a new choir suite.

In October 1993 Carol Ann Moore Harris (daughter of former Pastor Zane Moore) was ordained into the ministry. Sunday school attendance was reported in excess of 450 members that year. Westminster tithed 10% of the funds raised in the Mission Possible campaign, including a \$100,000 donation, toward a new Presbyterian Home in Easley. In late November the dedication of the Columbarium was held. By yearend, WPC’s active membership stood at 1,200 with total giving of \$846,000.

The 1994 Senior High Mission Trip took 22 young people and their advisors to do challenging work in the Dominican Republic. During that same summer, Lud Weaver took a 12 week Sabbatical to study in Rome and to visit missionaries in Hong Kong and Bangkok. In August 1994 Jo Sivewright retired after serving 12 years as the church’s financial secretary. Later that year the church launched “Mission Possible II”, a campaign to retire as much of the leftover debt as possible from the large construction project; \$581K was raised toward this goal. In spite of this additional campaign, Westminster successfully raised its projected budget for 1995 of \$913K.

In early 1995 Roy Lindahl retired after serving faithfully for 20 years. Later that year WPC entered into a contract with a developer to purchase the remaining former Southside property across the street and develop a retirement facility, which became known as Westminster Retirement Center. Several of our senior members have lived there over the years.

By 1996 WPC’s operating budget had grown to just over \$1M. Westminster gave \$100K to develop a multipurpose center in the Piedmont Manor/Pleasant Valley community where the church had conducted summer programs for several years. Fellowship groups continued to grow and prosper at WPC, through The Wave, The Heard, The Flock, and the At Ease groups. Dine with Nine provided opportunities for new and old members to get to know each other. Westminster and Fourth Presbyterian teamed up to build our second Habitat for Humanity house. Also that year, Westminster began a Stephen Ministry program to provide confidential sustained care by 22 lay members who received extensive training and were ordained into the program.

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Also in 1991 WPC kicked off “Mission: Possible”, a major fundraising campaign to expand our facilities. By March 1992 \$2.1M had been pledged to the campaign, representing 88% of the congregation. Phase I of the building campaign began in late June with the Columbarium, as well as the addition to the Dodenhoff McGregor education building and the community hall. Construction continued throughout 1993. Overall, the new facilities would provide updated space for classrooms, meeting space, the Weekday School and a new choir suite.

In October 1993 Carol Ann Moore Harris (daughter of former Pastor Zane Moore) was ordained into the ministry. Sunday school attendance was reported in excess of 450 members that year. Westminster tithed 10% of the funds raised in the Mission Possible campaign, including a \$100,000 donation, toward a new Presbyterian Home in Easley. In late November the dedication of the Columbarium was held. By yearend, WPC’s active membership stood at 1,200 with total giving of \$846,000.

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