



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with you in the next. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr

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

Welcome

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

Prelude "A Mighty Fortress" arr. Hustad

* Call to Worship Psalm 67:4-5, 7

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy;
People: **For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
People: **Let all the ends of the earth revere God.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #341 "O God, Show Mercy to Us" THAXTED

* Prayer of Confession
Almighty God,
we know that we manufacture idols out of many things.
We become obsessed with time, and fear losing it.
We become attached to our wealth, and fear sharing it.
We become too controlling of the ones we love,
instead of trusting them to you.
We imagine our accomplishments as the measure of our worth,
when you tell us that your love forever defines our lives.
Forgive us, gracious God,
and plant your Holy Spirit in our hearts once again.
Make us ever more grateful for the gifts of faith, hope,
and love that you have given us in Jesus Christ,
so that we would live simply, love generously,
speak truthfully, serve faithfully,
and leave everything else to you. 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 *Rosemary Jean Dulin*

Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" BUNESSAN



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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson, *1 Corinthians 3:5-9* p. 927
New Testament Lesson, *Acts 17:16-34* p. 902

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

Sermon "Even in Athens"

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 "Keep God's Light" Patterson

* 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

Recognition of New Members

* Hymn #740 "Lead Me, Guide Me" LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response "Lead Me, Guide Me" AKERS
Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

* Postlude "Come Thou Fount" arr. Bish

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, Leigh Stuckey, *liturgists*

Mae Todd Mullins, Neil Shurley, *sponsors*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

The Summer Choir

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Laura Sanders, Mary Ashmore, Carroll Farmer,

Susan Grier, Carl Muller, *greeters*

George Blount, Daniel Knauer, *acolytes*

Worship Notes

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices.

WORSHIP BAGS

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make foundational layers of meaning for faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday. This shift to reusable items demonstrates how we value hospitality and care for creation. Special thanks to Tavia Young, Allison Muller, and Ruth Johnston for their faithful gifts to our children in this behind-the-scenes ministry.

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.

MEMBERSHIP@WPC

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This Sunday we welcome new members into the Westminster Church family. All are invited to greet them in the Atrium following worship.

We Remember in Prayer

Erik Busby on the death of his mother, Mary G. Brown, in Greenville - 5/9/2022.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Rosemary Jean Dulin, daughter of Thad & Dixie Dulin.

SUMMER CHOIR

Beginning this Sunday, the Summer Choir will be leading in worship each week. It is a great opportunity to join in singing! The choir meets each Sunday at 9:15 in the choir room to learn the anthem for the day, and sits among the congregation during worship until time to sing. For more information, contact Mark Kemp (mkemp@wpc-online.org).

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).

IT'S ELEMENTARY, REGISTRATION OPEN!

It's Elementary is an after school faith formation group for children in 1st grade-5th grade that meets on Wednesdays during the school year from 2:30-4:30p. Our theme for next school year is "The Life and Teachings of Jesus." Children will learn about Jesus Christ through Bible study, recreation, crafts and games. Registration is required and the link is available on the church website. Register today!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, REGISTER BY JUNE 1

Over 100 children have already signed up to join us for Vacation Bible School, August 1-5 from 9-12. Registration will be open until June 1st for rising Kindergarten through 5th grade. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please email vbs@wpc-online.org for more information.

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.

OPEN MINDS • Serving with WPC

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. Contact Julia Watkins or write "PVC" on your Connection Card.

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.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 22-29, 2022

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

Monday, May 23
4:00p Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 24
12:00p AI-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, May 25
7:00 Senior High Bible Study

Thursday, May 26
4:30p 8th Grade Bible Study

Sunday, May 29
Seventh Sunday of Easter
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Fellowship

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.

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

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From the Pews, Mary Martha Smoak

I am a very new member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Someone thought it would be a good idea to put me on a list to write for the Harbinger front page From the Pews section. I am not sure I qualify but I will make an attempt.

Having been Presbyterian from birth, I have noticed that Presbyterians overall like order. The liturgical calendar provides that order and my understanding is that ministers generally follow the scripture outlined for each Sunday and the seasons of the Church.

Acts 17:16-34 is the New Testament scripture for today. Since I am not a Bible scholar I turned to the NIV Study Bible and Google for help....it is a new age of research for me.

Paul traveled a lot and in this scripture he was addressing the city of Athens. The scripture addresses those ancient days and as usual could be sending a message to our doorsteps. Paul was distressed by the use of idols then and now. We, too, need to identify idols that may be in our lives. I do not believe folks actually worship idols in the form of statues; but, make no mistake we sometimes let the Spirit take a backseat in our lives. Jesus wants to be in the pilot seat as we navigate this life.

Paul comes to the people and is preaching strange ideas the people have not heard. He was offering the teachings of Jesus as a better way to worship God in the temple and in everyday life — carrying beliefs outside the wall of the synagogue. He intended for Christian beliefs to be put into action for everyone to hear and follow.

God is not to be held captive within the physical structure of a church building. Ben reminds us of this almost every Sunday.

As a visitor first and now a member of the church, I felt from the beginning that Westminster was populated by all ages of people who wanted to be kind to others and put the messages of Jesus into action. Our challenge is to be an active disciple seven days a week. Someone once told me when working toward a goal for change — we don't have to be an A student, but a good solid B will set us on our way.

Simply reviewing the opportunities listed in the Harbinger is a great way to identify the needs of church and community.

