



Third Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

The Holy Spirit gathers us- in the fullness of our whole selves, a body of actual bodies- empowered to perceive the unseeable. We gather in faith, lamenting for all that is piercingly broken, lost, dismissed or stolen. We gather in faith, hoping for all that God will beautifully redeem and make new. Come let us hasten to worship the Lord who has asked, “Whom shall I send?” And in spirit and in body, we have replied, “Here I am.”

The Reverend Ruth T. West

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

Lydia Kellett

Prelude “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. Raney

* Call to Worship

Psalm 77

Leader: We gather in worship to remember the works of the Lord and call to mind the wonders of God.

People: We gather to meditate on all the mighty things God has done and God’s power among the people.

Leader: God has made a way in the sea, paths in great waters, and confirms the new covenant yet more wondrously.

People: God leads the people like a flock and guides the church to the land of promise.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #24 “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” HOLY MANNA

* Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, ruler of all hearts,
 you call us to obey you and favor us with true freedom,
 yet we stumble in keeping faithful to the ways of Christ.**

**Help us to leave behind all that hinders us
 and fix our eyes on your Son, Jesus Christ,
 so that we may steadfastly follow
 in the paths of your kingdom.**

**Give us eyes to see and minds to understand
 your marvelous works, so that we have hope in despair,
 deliverance from fear,
 and courage through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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

First Scripture Lesson, *Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20*

p. 467

Second Scripture Lesson, *Isaiah 6:1-8*

p. 553

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Word Choice”

Responding to **God’s Word**

* Affirmation of Faith

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Anthem “Order My Steps (In Your Word)”

arr. Schrader

* 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 #269

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

LANCASHIRE

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response

AKERS

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

*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

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

arr. Smith

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Lauren Slingerland, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Stephanie Pavik, *lay reader*

Nancy Smith, *guest organist*

The Summer Choir

Bryant Puntch, *head usher*

Laura Cox, Laura Sanders, Durden Collins,

Lisa Mangione, Rob Morgan, *greeters*

Harrison Dillard, Thomas Dillard, *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.

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.

Because of a paper shortage in the cream base that we use for printing the Harbinger, we will use a white stock for mailing the weekly bulletin until supplies increase.

**MEMBERSHIP@WPC
 NEW MEMBERS**

We welcomed the following new member into our fellowship on June 19, 2022:

- Linda Watt joined by transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY.

SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP

We ask for the congregation’s prayers as a group of 13 Sr. High Youth and their mighty chaperones (Lauren Hood, Ben Dorr, and Donn James) travel to Memphis, TN today to participate in a weeklong service experience with Youth Mission Co. They will be serving in a variety of non-profit contexts in Memphis and learning about that city’s rich history with the Civil Rights Movement. They will stay at Idlewild Presbyterian Church and explore much of the downtown area through their service with various outreach agencies.

Youth Participants: Gray Blount, Gage Gettys, David Lowe, Andrew Morrow, Whit Palmer, Nan Partridge, Jack Robinson, Addison Royal, Shaw Shurley, Bruce Usher.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • [Gathering@WPC](#)

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. Registration ends July 15.

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.

2022 GRADUATE

A graduate was missed in the June 12 bulletin. Avery Howard graduated from St. Joseph's High School.

INTERIM FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Westminster welcomes Michelle Patterson as our Interim Financial Secretary. Michelle began working in our office this week after training with Sherri Owens last week. She comes to us from Godshall Recruiting, and was also recommended by a couple of members of our congregation. Michelle will be with us while we are looking for someone to fill the permanent position. Her office hours will be 8:30a-3:30p Monday-Thursdays, and 8:30a-12:30p on Friday. Her email address is mpatterson@wpc-online.org. If you come by the office, please introduce yourself and welcome Michelle to Westminster!

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. To volunteer, 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 (July 12, August 9), 9a-1p. Contact Julia Watkins or write "Project Host" on your Connection Card to sign up.

FILL THE FOOD PANTRY

In this season of abundance, practice generosity by donating the following items to the United Ministries food pantry:

canned fruit and vegetables
soups
pastas
canned meat
peanut butter
powdered milk

Items may be left in the marked wall cabinets in the Friendship Court.

SUMMER DONUTS

Want to help with after-worship donuts throughout the summer? Join the Hospitality Team! Volunteers help with church-wide gatherings as they are able throughout the year. Write "Hospitality Team" on your Connection Card or contact Julia Watkins to get connected.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS June 26-July 2, 2022

Sunday, June 26

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Senior High Mission Trip

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Fellowship
with donuts

Monday, June 27

Senior High Mission Trip

Tuesday, June 28

Senior High Mission Trip

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, June 29

Senior High Mission Trip

Thursday, June 30

Senior High Mission Trip

Friday, July 1

Senior High Mission Trip

Sunday, July 3

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Fellowship
with donuts

THE SESSION

The Class of 2023

Mary Ashmore

Tony Atkins

Jeff Beck

Emily Busby

Caroline Clark

Durden Collins

Kevin Lancaster

Lisa Mangione

Rob Morgan

Carl Muller

Mae Todd Mullins

Laura Williams Sanders

The Class of 2024

Hastings Blumer

Laura Cox

Jay Culclasure

Ross Glidewell

Jara Jones

Meg McKnight

Toni Paylor

Neil Shurley

Keith Stevenson

Lesley Usher

LeAnne White

Russ Williams

The Class of 2025

Jacob Barker

Marian Carpenter

Lindsey Donlan

Carroll Farmer

Zach Freeman

Susan Grier

Nikki Grumbine

Bill Holt

Ginny Reed

Jordan Smith

Tom Vanderbloemen

Parks Workman

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Bryan Atkins

Over the past several years, it would not be too difficult to find a lot of negativity and despair in our world. Maybe you have experienced a death in your family, divorce, or the stress of a debilitating illness. Whatever less fortunate circumstances that ultimately put you in an unhealthy mental state of great despair or depression is truly a test to our faithfulness in God.

With today's reading in Psalm 77, it appears that Asaph is going through a great time of despair and sadness. He is also asking and praying for God's help and his prayers do not seem to be helping him. What is he to do to overcome this despair? What are we to do when hope and faith are on the verge of being lost? How do we handle ourselves when God is putting our faith to the ultimate test? How often do we put God first in our lives except when we are in a dire time of need? Why do bad things seem to happen to such good people? These are questions that come to mind when I reflect on this passage.

Recently my amazing 98-year-old aunt passed away to meet God. For the past 8 years, she suffered greatly with Alzheimer's, debilitating physical ailments, and was unable to get out of bed unless she had the help of her care takers. It was not until her celebration of life that I truly understood the full breadth and depth of her life – a former fashion model in Hollywood in the 1940s only to return back to her home in Appalachia to become an amazing wife to her husband for 60+ years, start her own business as a female entrepreneur well beyond her time, raise a family, remain an active and involved member of her church as well as become a certified Red Cross lifeguard for her county. After nearly drowning in a river as a child, one of her missions was to teach others how to swim. Over many years she taught hundreds of people how to swim by opening her backyard of her home with the only swimming pool in a 3-county area at the time in the mountains of North Carolina. She truly made a positive impact to me and everyone who knew her. Her faith was tested through this suffering, and I am certain that she found a way to never lose faith in God during this ultimate and final test in her life.

When Asaph focuses on God's sacrifices in the past, he seems to come to terms with his faith and God's unending love. I, like him, have learned that when bad things happen, we must strive to be grateful for the enduring love from God and be grateful for the many sacrifices he has made for us. When we think thoughts of gratefulness, we feel feelings of hope, see through the darkness, eliminate the anchors of fear, and see the light of the eternal and merciful love that God has given us. We are all truly blessed indeed.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE SIXTH DECADE (PART 1)
1997-2007

At the beginning of Westminster's sixth decade, the rapidly growing church celebrated its 50th anniversary, the Year of Jubilee, based upon ancient Israel's celebration every 50 years. It was an exciting year indeed, bringing back a number of former pastors and staff to help celebrate. Zane Moore, John Haley, Pete Peery, Susie Smith and Alan Elmore returned to preach. In addition, Steve Farrow, former organist and choirmaster from 1960-1974, served as guest organist on January 26. With Al Sivewright heading the 50th Anniversary Committee, of course we celebrated our Scottish roots with a traditional Scottish Communion service in February. Many other wonderful events took place during this milestone year in the church's history:

- A birthday party for the church in February,
- A church wide Arts Festival and supper in September,
- Homecoming Sunday in October, where Lud Weaver's sermon, *Standing on Each Other's Shoulders*, honored the foresight of our founders and all who followed after them.

Charter members and all former ministers were recognized. It was truly a moving and deeply meaningful service when John Haley and Zane Moore closed the serviced walking arm in arm down the aisle. A wonderful box lunch was served for close to 1,000 people. The end of our 50 Year Jubilee occurred on November 23 with a sermon by Albert C. Winn, former Moderator of the General Assembly.

Active ministry at Westminster continued throughout the anniversary year, including the addition of Stephen Ministers. (Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-on-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life.) Renovations and repairs to our physical plant were necessary, due to inadequacies in the crib, toddler and nursery areas. Plans continued to eventually construct a community building in the Piedmont Manor neighborhood. Elder Lydia Kellett coordinated the effort, bringing city and county officials and non-profit groups into the planning. Elder Frank Williams was honored as United Ministries' Outstanding Volunteer in 1997. Also, Elders Clarence "Hots" Easley and Bill Kellett were honored by American Leprosy Missions for their medical work in Africa.

Also during 1997, the Pastoral Search Committee issued a call to Amos Workman, from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, to fill the position of Associate Pastor – following the retirement of Dan Hughs. That same year the Senior Highs received permission from the Session to sell the blue and white WPC decals to raise money for the summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic. With these decals prominently displayed on hundreds of cars in the neighborhood, road rage ceased to exist! WPC offered many opportunities to participate in team sports, with 19 basketball teams and both men's and women's softball teams. The At Ease group continued with great fellowship, interesting speakers, and occasional outings. WPC's library, started in 1956, was now being well managed by Pat Shufeldt, with almost 2,400 volumes.

By 1998, WPC had an operating budget of just over \$1M, with the stewardship campaign chaired by Stan Reid. In March that year, WPC launched its website, which by December was up and running for the benefit



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of members and visitors. In May the Pastor Nominating Committee brought forth the name of Steve Phillips as Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults. He served well in that role for over 10 years before taking on the role of Plant Engineer, where he continues to manage our physical plant. In July, one of Westminster's dreams was realized when the developer of the former Southside Baptist property (more recently owned by WPC) officially opened the Westminster Retirement Center. Also during that year, Elder Lydia Kellett was elected as a Commissioner to the General Assembly. Later in 1998 the Pastoral Nominating Committee put forth the name of Stephen R. Vance to become Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Mission Outreach, where he served until his retirement in 2004.

In 1999 the Presbyterian Women inaugurated a Prayer Chain, led by Vonnie Vance (Steve's wife) and Elder Frank Williams. This ministry continues today and is stronger than ever. The long awaited Foothill Presbyterian Home opened that year, with WPC providing financial support. Many long time Westminster members have lived there over the years. Our commitment to missionaries and mission projects, a hallmark of our church since its beginning, continued to be very strong and supported work in Malawi, the Dominican Republic, and Nepal. We sent our first adult mission team to the Dominican Republic that same year. Also in 1999, the first new church plant in many years resulted in the formation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, now located on Woodruff Road in Simpsonville. Several WPC members supported the new church by moving their memberships to Eastminster. Two of those members were Charlie and Sarah Runnion. Charlie had stood at WPC's door to greet worshippers for decades; a big hole was left among us with his departure.

Also that year WPC member Chris Anderson (son of Vernon and Gwyn) was presented as an inquirer to Foothills Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry. This was another in a long line of our members answering a call to the ministry. Our Music Director, Bing Vick, celebrated his 25th anniversary in 1999. WPC partnered with Fourth Presbyterian to build another Habitat house in the new Habitat Village near White Horse Road. Former WPC member Christie Sweeny Gravely was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, with her parents, Pete and Joanne Sweeny, as participating Elders. By the end of 1999 WPC's budget had reached \$1.4M. Westminster was a large and strong church looking toward the future.

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 sixth in a series of articles on Westminster's history.

celebrating westminster 

August 20th | Rise Against Hunger
8a-4p (sign up for a two hour shift)
Package 75,000 meals to celebrate 75 years of service.

September 22nd | 75th Gala
7p-10p at the Poinsett Club
\$75 | heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, live music

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of members and visitors. In May the Pastor Nominating Committee brought forth the name of Steve Phillips as Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults. He served well in that role for over 10 years before taking on the role of Plant Engineer, where he continues to manage our physical plant. In July, one of Westminster's dreams was realized when the developer of the former Southside Baptist property (more recently owned by WPC) officially opened the Westminster Retirement Center. Also during that year, Elder Lydia Kellett was elected as a Commissioner to the General Assembly. Later in 1998 the Pastoral Nominating Committee put forth the name of Stephen R. Vance to become Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Mission Outreach, where he served until his retirement in 2004.

In 1999 the Presbyterian Women inaugurated a Prayer Chain, led by Vonnie Vance (Steve's wife) and Elder Frank Williams. This ministry continues today and is stronger than ever. The long awaited Foothill Presbyterian Home opened that year, with WPC providing financial support. Many long time Westminster members have lived there over the years. Our commitment to missionaries and mission projects, a hallmark of our church since its beginning, continued to be very strong and supported work in Malawi, the Dominican Republic, and Nepal. We sent our first adult mission team to the Dominican Republic that same year. Also in 1999, the first new church plant in many years resulted in the formation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, now located on Woodruff Road in Simpsonville. Several WPC members supported the new church by moving their memberships to Eastminster. Two of those members were Charlie and Sarah Runnion. Charlie had stood at WPC's door to greet worshippers for decades; a big hole was left among us with his departure.

Also that year WPC member Chris Anderson (son of Vernon and Gwyn) was presented as an inquirer to Foothills Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry. This was another in a long line of our members answering a call to the ministry. Our Music Director, Bing Vick, celebrated his 25th anniversary in 1999. WPC partnered with Fourth Presbyterian to build another Habitat house in the new Habitat Village near White Horse Road. Former WPC member Christie Sweeny Gravely was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, with her parents, Pete and Joanne Sweeny, as participating Elders. By the end of 1999 WPC's budget had reached \$1.4M. Westminster was a large and strong church looking toward the future.

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 sixth in a series of articles on Westminster's history.

celebrating westminster 

August 20th | Rise Against Hunger
8a-4p (sign up for a two hour shift)
Package 75,000 meals to celebrate 75 years of service.

September 22nd | 75th Gala
7p-10p at the Poinsett Club
\$75 | heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, live music

