



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“Your main question should always be whether something is lived with or without God. You have your own inner knowledge to answer that question. Every time you do something that comes from your needs for acceptance, affirmation, or affection, and every time you do something that makes these needs grow, you know that you are not with God. These needs will never be satisfied; they will only increase when you yield to them. But every time you do something for the glory of God, you will know God’s peace in your heart and find rest there.”

Henri Nouwen, from *The Inner Voice of Love*

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.

Prelude *Partita on Two American Folk Hymns* Larson

* Call to Worship from Psalm 139

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
People: I come to the end — I am still with you.
 Leader: Where can I go from your spirit?
 Or where can I flee from your presence?
People: I come to the end — I am still with you.
 Leader: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
People: I come to the end — I am still with you.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #402 “How Lovely, Lord” MERLE’S TUNE

* Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, you have searched us, and you know us fully.
 You perceive our every thought, word, and action.
 You are acquainted with all our ways.
 Yet, we are prone to flee from your presence.
 We distract ourselves, rather than pausing to reflect.
 We strive for the next quick fix,
 rather than resting in your grace.
 We self-isolate, rather than reaching out in love.
 For all the ways we distance ourselves from you,
 O God, forgive us.
 Pursue us yet again with your goodness and mercy
 that we might find refuge in your promises
 and be at home in your heart. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri Hymnal, #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 *Michael Preston Sanders*

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

Old Testament Lesson, *1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a* p. 284

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 8:43-48* p. 841

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “*The Power of Proximity: Getting Close to God*”

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

Anthem *The Lord Is My Shepherd* Pote

* Doxology Hymnal, #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 #187 “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” BRADBURY

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response Hymnal, #740

**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 *Flourish* Wagner

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Julia Watkins, *preaching*
 Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*
 Anna Hanor, *sponsor*
 Ben Edwards, *lay reader*
 Todd Monsell, *organist*
 The Summer Choir
 Judy McKenney, *guest director*
 Jacob Barker, *head usher*
 Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman,
 Mary Ashmore, Bill Holt *greeters*
 Daniel Knauer, *acolyte*

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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Michael Preston Sanders, son of Corey Sanders & Laura Williams Sanders.

In Memoriam

Janie Sickinger
 (6/2/1946 - 6/28/2022)

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

WPCYG – Save the Date

Sign-ups are live! Sign up today and save August 20-21 on your calendars. This will be our Back to School Retreat at Look Up Lodge! The trip is from 9a Saturday until 2p Sunday and we will travel to Look Up via charter bus. It is open to all 6th-12th grade youth. Questions? Ask Mary Kathleen.

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.

LIGHTLY SEASONED GROUP

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined) – will meet at 6:30p on Saturday, July 30, at the home of Tricia & Stan Pendergrass (25 Norman Pl). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church’s website (“Connect” then “Events Registration” tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

Come join the Men of Westminster for our July gathering on Thursday, July 28th at 6p to be held at The Burrow (2017 Augusta Street). We need to provide an accurate headcount so they can properly staff for our group. If you are interested in a casual evening of fellowship with other men of our church, please RSVP by Monday, July 25th to Stan Pendergrass (spendergrass32486@gmail.com)

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.

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

Thanks to a strong volunteer response, all spaces have been filled through August. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to serve with Project Host coming soon. If you are interested in serving individually, contact Julia Watkins or write “Project Host” on your Connection Card.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Celebrate WPC’s 75th Anniversary by packaging 75,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger. Everyone is welcome to join in this fun service opportunity in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 20, with 2-hour shifts from 8a-4p. Register now on the WPC website, or write “Rise Against Hunger” on your Connection Card to get involved.

THE HARBINGER
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 17-24, 2022

Sunday, July 17

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
 9:00a 75th Anniversary Committee Meeting
 9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
 10:00 Worship Service
 11:00 After Worship Fellowship with donuts
 11:15 Youth/Parent Montreat Pre-Trip Meeting (Charter Room)

Monday, July 18

1:30p Pleasant Valley Connection Camp
 7:00 Music Director Search Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 19

12:00 Al-Anon Group Meeting
 7:00p Men of Westminster Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 20

3:00p Witness & Service Committee Meeting
 5:30 Middler Waffle Cone Wednesday at Spill the Beans
 7:00 Senior High Dinner Club at Joy of Tokyo

Sunday, July 24

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference
 9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
 10:00 Worship Service
 11:00 After Worship Fellowship with donuts

THE SESSION

The Class of 2023

Mary Ashmore	Kevin Lancaster
Tony Atkins	Lisa Mangione
Jeff Beck	Rob Morgan
Emily Busby	Carl Muller
Caroline Clark	Mae Todd Mullins
Durden Collins	Laura Williams Sanders

The Class of 2024

Hastings Blumer	Toni Paylor
Laura Cox	Neil Shurley
Jay Culclasure	Keith Stevenson
Ross Glidewell	Lesley Usher
Jara Jones	LeAnne White
Meg McKnight	Russ Williams

The Class of 2025

Jacob Barker	Nikki Grumbine
Marian Carpenter	Bill Holt
Lindsey Donlan	Ginny Reed
Carroll Farmer	Jordan Smith
Zach Freeman	Tom Vanderbloemen
Susan Grier	Parks Workman

the
HARBINGER
 open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Mark Matlock

We were not regular church goers when I was growing up. Moving several times before my senior year in high school probably contributed to that. Mom did her best to get us to church, but Dad was disinterested in a faith life. He thought it pagan.

One vivid memory is the Sunday I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Dad came to the ceremony but as soon as it was over, about halfway through the regular service, he walked out. It was as if he was spooked by something. Through the rest of my years at home, Dad wouldn’t darken the door of church.

Mind you, Dad was a very good man, a hard-working breadwinner who was fiercely loyal and protective of his family. We knew he loved us very much but as with many men of the Greatest Generation, he rarely expressed it.

When Mom underwent lung cancer surgery, Dad wouldn’t budge from his “no church” policy. He was stoic. In the ensuing months during my senior year in college, Mom recovered a bit, but in the spring of 1979 the cancer metastasized at the base of her brain. Three weeks after that diagnosis, she was gone. The entire week of the funeral, Dad did not shed a tear, at least not around my brother, my sisters and me.

Soon after with the nest empty, Dad was alone in the house, alone with his thoughts. He became angry, shaking his fist at the Almighty demanding to know why Mom “was taken from me.”

So imagine my surprise 18 months later when Dad called and told me he had become a Christian. I looked at the phone and thought, “What have you done with my father?” The woman who would become my stepmother convinced Dad to go to church. He was baptized (a full dunking) and just like that, his faith life was born.

That transformation (from my perspective, a miracle) has stayed with me for the past 42 years. If God can reach someone that lost, He truly can reach anyone.

About 16 years later, Dad and I were talking in a Durham, N.C., hotel room as my wife Elaine lay dying in a hospital. He hugged me and said, “Mark, I wish I could take this blow for you, but you are going to be able to handle this so much better than I did. You have your faith life; I didn’t when your mom died. I know you can make it.” His faith in me was a source of strength during the darkest of periods.

I since have realized that it’s the constant renewal of our spirit, made possible through prayer, church attendance and dedication to Christ’s message of love and inclusion that can hold the key to faith. As Christ tells the woman in Luke 8:48, “Your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

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

