



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“No daylight to separate us. Only kinship. Inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased...Kinship is what God presses us on to, always hopeful that its time has come.”

Gregory Boyle, from *Tattoos on the Heart*

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 *Though I May Speak* Wood

* Call to Worship from Psalm 146:5-10

Leader: Happy are those whose help is in God,
creator of heaven and earth,
who is forever faithful;

People: **seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;**
Leader: setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;
People: **lifting up those who are bowed down
and loving the righteous.**

Leader: The Lord protects strangers
and upholds the orphan and widow;

People: **but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.**

Leader: The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations.

All: **Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #308 “O God in Whom All Life Begins” NOEL

* Prayer of Confession
**Merciful God, in your expansive love for us, you seek us out,
invite us in, and make room for us at the table.
Still, we are often slow to offer others a seat.
Instead, we keep our distance,
making our neighbors into objects of pity and charity,
rather than positioning ourselves in proximity to them.
In your compassion, O Lord, forgive us and renew
our commitment to those we would deem “other.”
May we move toward the margins
until the margins themselves are erased
and we embrace our belonging to one another and 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, #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

Epistle Lesson, *Philippians 2:1-8* p. 954

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 14:15-24* p. 849

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Responding to **God’s Word**

* Affirmation of Faith from *The Confession of 1967*

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.

Jesus Christ is God with humankind.

**He is the eternal Son of the Father,
who became human and lived among us
to fulfill the work of reconciliation.**

**He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit
to continue and complete his mission.**

**This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
is the foundation of all confessional statements about God,
humanity, and the world.**

**Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God
and to one another.**

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 *Draw the Circle Wide* Miller

* 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 #306 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” DENNIS

* 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 *Strong Praise!* Davis

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Julia Watkins, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Caroline Blouin, *lay reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

The Summer Choir

Brad Hawkins, *head usher*

Jara Jones, Meg McKnight, Laura Cox,

Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure, *greeters*

Lillian Threatt, *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.

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.

In Memoriam

Bob Stewart
(1/6/1944 – 7/14/2022)

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

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.

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC

LUNCHEON GROUP

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).

DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

WPC's Vacation Bible School participants will fill backpacks with supplies to support under-resourced students in Greenville County Schools. We will collect the following donations through August 2nd, and you may either purchase via the Amazon Wish List or deliver directly to the church office. Questions? Contact Julia Watkins.

- Spiral notebooks (wide-ruled)
- Lined loose leaf paper (wide-ruled)
- Crayons
- #2 pencils
- Packs of facial tissue
- Folders with pockets
- Multi-color construction paper
- Glue or glue sticks

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, July 27, at 12p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

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

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS July 24-31, 2022

Sunday, July 24

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 After Worship Fellowship
with donuts

Monday, July 25

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

7:00a Music Director Search
Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 26

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

12:00p AI-Anon Group Meeting

1:30 Pleasant Valley Connection
Camp

Wednesday, July 27

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

12:00p Luncheon Group Meeting

7:00 Summer Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 28

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

12:00p Endowment Committee
Meeting (Zoom)

6:00 Men of Westminster Social
Gathering

Friday, July 29

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

Saturday, July 30

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

6:30p Lightly Seasoned

Sunday, July 31

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 After Worship Fellowship
with donuts

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Women of Westminster's Kick Off Social will be Thursday, August 25 at 6:30p at the home of Mandy Pruitt (29 Rock Creek Dr., 29605). All women from the church are invited to socialize, have fellowship with one another, meet new folks and learn more about WOW! Please contact Coleman Dixon, Moderator, at 864-607-8778 or colemandixon@hotmail.com to be added to our email list to get more information. Looking forward to a meaningful year!

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Donn James

Our gospel lesson today comes from Luke 14:15-24. Jesus tells this parable:

A certain man decides to throw a great party. He invites many who he knows and is acquainted with, and they accept. But on the day of the party, many of the invitees offer flimsy excuses and cannot come. This angers the man, he calls his servant and tells him to forget the list of invitees, and to go out and bring in the lame, the poor, the blind, and the crippled. When the hall is still not full, he sends his servant out again to find more guests.

In this passage, three things stood out to me: the invitations, the excuses, and the kingdom of God.

I believe that God continuously invites us to be part of his kingdom. I have been taught that service is our response to God's grace. If we do not respond to his call, he calls again and again and again. Sometimes we are tired, have no time, are committed to family, think we are not capable, but God says, "Just show up and I will help you do the rest."

In our world today, we don't often get to see examples of the kingdom of God. We just see the bad news, the hatred, the violence.

This spring and summer, I have had the privilege of seeing examples of the Kingdom of God.

- The United Ministries banquet featured Bryan Stevenson, the author of *Just Mercy*, and the Greenville Convention Center was filled with people who support and volunteer with United Ministries. They just showed up.
- Hands on Greenville Day – our church worked with Soteria and there were thousands of other volunteers throughout the city. They just showed up.
- The youth mission trips to Raleigh and Memphis where the youth worked first hand with the poor and the homeless at different service agencies. They were able to see countless volunteers giving of their time while modeling God's unconditional love to others. They just showed up.

God calls us to give a smile, a hello, a thank you, a welcome to a stranger, a hug, to be a mentor, volunteer with agencies that help the under-resourced, help a neighbor, support an immigrant, teach Sunday school, serve on a committee, be a friend to the lonely, and to think of and pray for others. We will be able to see and experience the Kingdom of God right here in our community as we respond to his call.

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

