



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

*Martin Luther King, Jr.
Letter from the Birmingham Jail*

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 *9a* O Day of Peace Callaham

Prelude *11:15a* "Adagio" from *Clarinet Concerto in A Major* Mozart

Introit *11:15a* "Surely" Langston

* Call to Worship Psalm 112: 1,5-6,9

Leader: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord,
 who greatly delight in God’s commandments.
**People: It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
 who conduct their affairs with justice.**

Leader: For the righteous will never be moved;
 they will be remembered forever.

**People: They have distributed freely,
 they have given to the poor;
 their righteousness endures forever.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #370 “This Is My Father’s World” TERRA BEATA

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with whole-hearted faith,
 nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**We have failed at justice, neglected kindness,
 and have forgotten to walk humbly with you.**

**Shower us with your compassion O God,
 and restore us with your grace.**

Grant us the courage to step outside our comfort zones.

**Help us to see the world through our neighbor’s eyes,
 and understand the world through our neighbor’s heart,
 so that by the power of your Spirit,
 our own hearts and minds would be open,
 and we would follow Christ’s path once again. 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

Old Testament Lesson, *Micah 6:6-8* p. 757

Gospel Lesson, *John 4:3-29* p. 864

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “He Chose This Route for a Reason”

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.**

Choral Call to Prayer *11:15a* “Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” Pardini

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 *9a* "Prayer for Peace" Cherwien

Anthem *11:15a* Ose Shalom (*The One Who Makes Peace*) Leavitt

*“The one who makes peace in the heavens, he makes peace for us,
 and for all Israel, and let us say Amen.”*

* 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 #761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” BEECHER

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response *11:15a* "We Pray for Peace" Neto

* Postlude *Procession II* Ore

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Kate Fowler *(9a)*, Lauren Hood *(11:15a)*, *lay readers*

Todd Monsell, organist

The Chancel Choir, *(9a)* The Sanctuary Choir, *(11:15a)*

Les Hicken, clarinet, Joanna Mulfinger, violin, *(11:15a)*

Catherine Blount *(9a)*, Rance Bryan *(11:15a)*, *head ushers*

Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell,

Jara Jones, Meg McKnight *(9a)*, *greeters*

Toni Paylor, Neil Shurley, Susan Grier,

Lesley Usher, LeAnne White *(11:15a)*, *greeters*

Lillian Threatt, Miles Threatt *(9a)*, Bobby Hartman *(11:15a)*, *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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, September 10, 2022, Sarah Brady and Cody Clunan were united in marriage at Westminster.

Save the Date!

75TH CELEBRATION

To register for the September 22nd celebration at the Poinsett Club, see the link in the e-News and on the church website at www.wpc-online.org. Or, you may call the church office. Registration Deadline: Monday, September 19, at Noon.

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 9-10:30a on Sunday, September 25. Those who attend the class are invited to become members during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Julia Watkins (jwatkins@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gathering@WPC

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, September 19 at 7p in the Charter Room. After the long "Covid lapse," we need to regroup. Hope you can attend this gathering. Please bring books/suggestions for upcoming programs. All are welcome.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Children and youth ages 5K-grade 12 are invited to register for the church basketball season. Online player registration opened Sunday, August 28 and continues through Sunday, October 2. Registration may be accessed on the church's website at www.wpc-online.org. WPC members interested in being a coach or assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

WESTCONNECT

Looking to nurture lasting friendships and grow in faith? You're invited to participate in WestConnect, a new ministry of small groups meeting regularly on a seasonal basis to share life, pray, and study together. Beginning in early October, WestConnect will gather for a 6-week series on Jesus' parables. Contact Julia Watkins to learn more, or complete the WestConnect interest form on the website.

FLU SHOTS AT WPC

The Pickwick Pharmacy will offer flu shots for ages 8+ (under 8 with a written prescription) at WPC on Monday, September 26, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Friendship Court which is accessible from the church office entrance off W. Augusta Pl. Pickwick accepts insurance and will bill the remaining balance to individuals after filing. Cash price is \$40. Seniors with Medicare will have a zero dollar copay. Call the church office at 232-2424 to sign up.

ANNUAL CHURCHWIDE

CHILI COOK-OFF

Join us for the churchwide chili cook-off on Sunday, October 2, in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:15a worship service. Teams are now closed with 11 teams set to impress! We have a variety of chilies...beef, chicken, and vegetarian. A baked potato bar with salad and dessert will be available as well. Pay for your lunch, taste cards, and raffle tickets online now through September 29! There will be lots of raffles you don't want to miss that will benefit the Scholarship Fund including art, college counseling, and a mountain weekend in Cashiers, NC! Contact Coleman Dixon (864-607-8778) for more information or to donate an item for the raffle.

OPEN MINDS • Serving with WPC

INTERFAITH JUSTICE MINISTRY

WPC is joining 18+ other local congregations to form GOAL, a new justice ministry that will work to solve systemic problems in our community. Those interested are invited to attend a house meeting, where small groups will discuss concerns for the community and how we can work together to solve them. Contact Julia Watkins to attend one of the following house meetings:

- September 20, 9-11a
(Bill Holt's home)
- October 4, 7:30-9:30p
(Anna Hanor's home)
- October 9, 12:30-2:30p
(at WPC, hosted by Julia Bellew)

US-MEXICO BORDER TRIP

WPC is planning a trip in partnership with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian ministry based in the sister cities of Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora. Participants will learn, serve, and build relationships on the US-Mexico border. Trip dates are February 11-17, 2023. Interested individuals are invited to attend an information session in Room 210 on Sunday, October 9, at 12:30pm or contact Julia Watkins to learn more.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [wpcgreenville](#) | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18 - 25, 2022

Sunday, September 18

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
12:30p	Stated Session Meeting
12:45	Connections Group
5:00	Middler Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Dinner
6:30	Middler Choir Rehearsal Senior High Youth Group

Monday, September 19

7:00p	Theology Reading Group
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 20

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

Wednesday, September 21

12:00p	Luncheon Group Meeting
2:30	It's Elementary
4:30	Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 22

9:30	Weekday School Chapel (3K)
9:45	Weekday School Chapel (5K)
10:00	Weekday School Chapel (4K) Thursday Bible Study
7:00p	75th Anniversary Celebration
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, September 25

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Worship Service New Member Class Education Committee Meeting
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
12:15p	New Member Reception
5:00	Middler Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Dinner
6:30	Middler Choir Rehearsal Senior High Youth Group

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HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXV | September 18, 2022 | No. 20

From the Pews, Bryan Atkins

This week's reading from John 4:3-29 talks about an outcast woman at the well and what Jesus does on his stop in Samaria. As a Jewish Rabbi, Jesus goes against what most Jews of the time would ever do which is to travel through Samaria on his way to Galilee. Many Jews at the time were quite prejudiced against the Samaritans and would take an extra 3-day trip to travel around the city vs. going directly through Samaria on the way to Galilee. Jesus chose the more direct route despite what most Jews would do and then He meets this woman at the well where He asks her for water.

Jesus goes on to have a conversation where He knows of her faults which include five failed marriages. Jesus also tells her about how she is with a man currently who is also not her husband. Despite the fact she is an outcast by her community, Jesus does not judge her at all. Even though Jews at the time would despise her, Jesus speaks with her, and shares that HE is the chosen Messiah. Since Jesus knows so much about her without previously meeting, she believes Him and goes back to the town she came from to tell others to come meet Him as the one who is the Messiah. Jesus moves her to do so despite the fact she was judged by others and isolated by her own community. This woman has lived a life where she has been constantly chasing the dream of fulfillment and happiness through her many failed relationships.

How often do we find ourselves "Chasing the Dream?" How often do we ask ourselves, are we genuinely happy in life? When do we think to ourselves or tell others, "If I only had the bigger house, I will be so happy; if I just get that amazing job, I will be all set and happy; if I can just find the perfect husband or wife, I will be fulfilled and ever so happy." Many of us are so blessed with a great career, the luxury car, the beautiful home, wonderful friends, and a happy marriage and family which can all be taken for granted. As we are on the journey through life, I know I have been guilty of being on the hamster wheel and losing track of the true meaning and happiness in life as well as taking these blessings for granted by not always putting Jesus first and foremost.

Are we all trying to chase happiness in the here and now like the woman at the well? I have had family members and friends I know who have suffered from alcoholism, drugs, and many other addictions. These vices will make one happy for a short time, but only having to chase the next high, the next luxury car, the next larger home, or better job. Without God, we will never feel true happiness.

Jesus is truly there for this woman to free her from the shackles of sin which keeps her from realizing true and meaningful happiness.

Like the woman at the well, God is here for each of us, and may we all take his non-judgmental approach to others we meet along the way to spread his good news. May we all be moved to seek Jesus if we do not truly know him, and if we do know Him, may we focus on having a deeper and stronger relationship with Jesus to spread His good news to all. Jesus will provide for us, the eternal fountain of happiness to soothe our thirst forever more. How blessed we all are to spread his love and word with open minds and open hearts indeed!

welcome back!

This Sunday, September 18, we will resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

Children/Youth Sunday School Class Locations

Children - Growing in Grace & Gratitude

5K/1st (Room 109)

2nd/3rd (Movie Room)

4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth - Feasting on the Word

Middlers (Youth Suite)

Senior Highs (Game Room of Youth Suite)

Adult Sunday School (September 11–October 23)

Daughters & Disciples: Women in the New Testament

led by Leigh Stuckey

Room 209

Often when we think of the New Testament we remember Jesus' 12 disciples and the Apostle Paul, but women's stories are critical to Jesus' early ministry and the spread of the gospel in the first century. From Elizabeth and Anna to the Samaritan woman and Paul's early supports, women's stories are rich and can help inform modern discipleship. Join us for this lecture-style class.

Perspectives on Science and Faith

led by John MacCarthy

Room 212

This course will be structured around discussions of questions such as the following: What is science? What is religion? What is the purpose of science? What is the purpose of religion? Is there scientific evidence for the existence of God? Do astrophysics and evolution disprove the existence of the God of Hebrew scriptures? How are scientific and religious realities similar and different? How are scientific and religious thought similar and different? Is science fundamentally anti-religious? Is religion fundamentally anti-science? Are there ways in which they can support one another? What are miracles? Do they (did they) occur and what does science say? Does prayer "work?" Is religious experience "simply a brain state" or is it communion with God? What does science say about religious experience? What are scientific and religious perspectives on free will? Does God exist and are we able to know Him/Her/It?

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Serving with WPC

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Men of Westminster will have their September gathering at Brewery 85 (Whitlee Ct.) on Thursday, September 29, at 6p. A representative from Habitat for Humanity will be the guest speaker.

The Men of Westminster will be helping with general maintenance at The Thornwell Camp for Boys at Lake Jocassee on October 5-9 and would appreciate any help from other gentlemen in the church. There will be spots available for overnight or just for the day. Call Tyler Fairey (803-237-6009) with questions about logistics and participation.

PVC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Love games? Love kids? Come join us at Pleasant Valley Connection on the second Monday of the month for games and relationship building. Contact Anna Hanor (anna.hanor@gmail.com) for more information or signup at <https://bit.ly/3qdhStH>.

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

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