Sunday, September 25, 2022 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | 9:00a & 11:15a



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship

"It is not always easy to be joyful, to keep in mind the duty of delight."

Dorothy Day

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 Andante Mendelssohn
Choral Introit 11:15a "Alleluia!" O'Carroll

* Call to Worship Psalm 30:1, 4-5

Leader: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, **People:** Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones of God,

and give thanks to God's holy name.
Leader: For God's anger is but for a moment;

God's favor is for a lifetime.

People: Weeping may linger for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Azmon

* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God,

we know that our sin is both personal and public.

We have failed to work within our neighborhoods

to seek out the lost, the lonely, the voiceless, and the forgotten.

We have prioritized personal comfort over the common good.

We have treated the gospel of your abundant grace

as if it were another reward for us to earn,

or another possession for us to purchase.

Forgive us, Holy One,

and search the depths of our souls with your Spirit.

Help us to walk the path that Jesus walked,

so that we would freely share the gifts you have given us.

Grant us the joy that can only come

from giving our lives away in obedience to your Son,

Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. 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.

* Anthem 11:15a I Can Do All Things Burrows

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

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 15:3-10* p. 850 Epistle Lesson, *Philippians 4:4-7.10-13* p. 955

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

Sermon "In Any and All Circumstances"

Responding to God's Word

* Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

Berthier

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

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,

Choral Call to Prayer 11:15a

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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.

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 settings, DeFord/Carter

"How Can I Keep From Singing"

* 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

Recognition of New Members

* Hymn #804 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" MARION

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response 11:15a "Go Out With Joy" Davis

* Postlude Festive Trumpet Tune German

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching
Lauren Slingerland, liturgist
Amanda Stern (9a), McKinley Hyman (11:15a), lay readers
Todd Monsell, organist
Rosemary Hughes (9a), soloist
The Junior & Senior Choristers, The Sanctuary Choir, (11:15a)
Parks Workman (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), head ushers
Jacob Barker, Meg McKnight, Lindsey Donlan,
Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman (9a), greeters
Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt, Ginny Reed,
Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen (11:15a), greeters
Capitola Riley, Caroline Riley (11:15a), acolutes

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.

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Thursday, September 15, 2022, Jordan Smith and Hunter Ditsch were united in marriage at Westminster.

In Memoriam

Barbara Phillips (9/5/1936 - 9/17/2022)

> "I am the resurrection and the life." - John 11:25

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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR Our Children's Ministry continues to

grow as God is bringing families back to connect in deeper ways. This is great news and we know we need adequate staff to support the over 500 children at Westminster. As such, the session recently approved the hiring of a Children's Ministry Coordinator who can help with volunteer and resource management, support the logistics of programming, and provide staff support to our robust programs. A search committee has been formed to thoughtfully and prayerfully find and field candidates for this position. If you may be interested, would like to see the full job description, or perhaps know someone who may be the dynamic candidate we're seeking, please contact Rance Bryan (rance_bryan@yahoo.com) or Jill Fairey (jill@palmettotrans.com).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gathering@WPC

Women of Westminster Circles

Tuesday, September 27

· Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr., 29605) at 6p. Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group's next event will be a Doodle Trail bike ride on Friday. September 30. Contact Group Leader, Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com), interested.

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 November 2-6 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.

OPEN MINDS • Serving with WPC

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

WPC is participating in a Habitat for Humanity build alongside other Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations. AM and PM shifts will continue through the end of the year, with the following opportunities in October: 10/13, 10/14, and 10/15. Contact Tony Atkins (tony@indconinc.com) to volunteer.

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:

- 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 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.

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).

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.

圖野 @ Dwpcgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS September 25 - October 2, 2022

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

Monday, September 26

Narcotics Anonymous 8:00p

Tuesday, September 27

12:00p	Al-Anon Group Meeting
6:00	Circle 7
7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 28

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

Thursday, September 29

9:30	Weekday School Chapel (3K)
9:45	Weekday School Chapel (5K)
10:00	Weekday School Chapel (4K)
	Thursday Bible Study
5:00p	Weekday School Open House
6:00	Men of Westminster at
	Brewery 85
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 30

Hiking Group 8:00a

Sunday, October 2

World Communion Sunday Worship Service - communion

	1
	Membership Committee
	Meeting
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service - communion
12:30p	WoW Chili Cook-Off Event
5:00	Middler Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Dinner
6:30	Middler Choir Rehearsal
	Senior High Youth Group

HARBINGER

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From the Pews, Rance Bryan

Playing sports was a big part of my childhood. Football, basketball, and baseball were my favorites, and I was fortunate to be able to play them all through middle and high school. Regularly we would finish a season of one sport on a Friday and start the next sport the following Monday. I attended a small, Christian school in Edgefield, SC and it was a common occurrence for us to travel several hours to play another team that had an enrollment similar to ours. Many of these schools were also Christian based, and frequently, Philippians 4:13 would be prominently displayed inside the gym or locker rooms.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" was a familiar slogan and was even printed on some of the team related t-shirts we had. The misconception that I, and most of my teammates, had with this verse was that God was going to give us the strength to defeat our opponents. That prayer, instead of practice, could lead to victories. I can now see that Paul did not have state championships in mind when he was writing his letter to the Philippians.

Reading the entire passage provides the context for Verse 13. Philippians 4:4-7 reminds us to put our faith in the Lord and he will guard our hearts and minds. This is the strength that Paul wanted everyone to understand and receive. Verse 12 continues with "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, living in plenty or in want." Paul is discussing the challenges he has faced in his life and in his ministry. But his faith in God provided the necessary strength to lead him through difficult circumstances. Remember, Paul wrote these letters while in prison.

My simple interpretation of Philippians 4:13 was sufficient for me in middle and high school. I felt, and knew, that God was watching over us while we played; but I mistakenly thought he was a little more involved in the outcome than he actually was. As I now have a deeper understanding of this passage, it is much more comforting to know that God wants to provide us a greater strength than could ever be displayed on an athletic field, but that it is up to us to create the relationship that will allow that to happen.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our Vision: Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow



Westminster Presbyterian Church 2007–2022 Reaching our 75th Anniversary

From 1947-2007, Westminster had grown from a group of 23 people who were encouraged by First Presbyterian Church to give birth to a new church in the "developing Augusta Road area." By 2007 total active membership stood at 1,463. New fellowship groups were emerging to encourage members of our much larger church to involve themselves in smaller, more intimate gatherings. Two new groups in 2007 were Connections and the Centering Prayer Group, an outgrowth of the 2006 November Nights class taught by Associate Pastor Dave Carlson. February 2007 brought the Lenten and Mission Festival, which featured an international theme and brought attention to 14 missions in which WPC was involved. Mission work in Asia, Africa and The Dominican Republic were highlighted with individual stations, where WPC members explained and demonstrated their different work.

With continued growth in new members every month, Susan McLarty, our Volunteer Coordinator, helped assimilate these members into the mission life of the church. The New Member Assimilation Committee assisted in finding where newcomers could put their gifts and talents to good work. Barbara Stoop was honored by the DAR with a Community Service Award based on her many years of work with the Girl Scouts at the Pleasant Valley Connection. The summer of 2007 saw 15 Westminster youth attend the Montreat Youth Conference, accompanied by Elder Donn James and several other adults. The keynote speaker was the Reverend Scott Phillips, brother of WPC Associate Pastor, Steve Phillips.

After many capital campaigns, 2008 was the beginning of discussions to enlarge the sanctuary. Out of these discussions came "A Place for Everyone," the campaign to raise \$6M to finish the plans that grew out of Freeman & Major's 25 Year Plan. In addition to making badly needed renovations to the existing building, the sanctuary was enlarged from seating for 368 to 676. The administrative wing would be completely renovated as well and would enclose the area formerly occupied as the Jenny Lee Easley Lounge and meditation garden into the Atrium we now enjoy. The formal dedication of the new sanctuary was held on August 30, 2009, when Lud Weaver preached a sermon entitled "I belong to..." Former Pastor Zane Moore was also on hand to participate in worship. The amazing, renovated and enlarged sanctuary was completed down to the last brick to resemble the former building's interior. By late 2009 the church's 25-year building plan had been accomplished. The carefully documented history of Westminster came to a close around this time with the publishing of Sue Inman's wonderful book, Growing in Faith - A History of Westminster Presbyterian Church (2007).

With continuing growth in technology, Live Stream Worship was begun in 2009. Christ Care groups emerged and became active; Westminster held its 20th Service of Memory and Celebration, honoring those members who had passed away during the year. In 2010 WPC became a member of GAIHN (Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network – now known as IHN and part of United Ministries). This mission work involved individual churches physically hosting families dealing with homelessness; families lived and were provided meals at a host church for a week at a time and then moved to another host church.

Westminster had long been a church that offered such a varied program of activities for its members and families. By 2013 the church was sponsoring 30 different basketball teams competing against many other churches. Over the years, many adults headed this mammoth undertaking, including Forrest Harrison "Whitey" Kendall, Tommy Miller, Tim Raney, and Charles "Bubba" Puntch.

On September 29, 2013, Leigh Stuckey, a graduate of Presbyterian College and Princeton Theological Seminary, was ordained as Westminster's Associate Pastor for Young Adults, Mission & Social Media. Leigh quickly became a strong and gifted teacher and preacher who brought the word to the congregation, both from the lectern and the pulpit.

WPC was fortunate to host the Moderator of the General Assembly (Rev. Dr. Heath Rada) around this time. Westminster Weekday School, opened in 1966, was expanded and now serving hundreds of children from WPC and the community at large. Always local mission minded, WPC donated \$100K to The City of Greenville Housing Authority to facilitate a trust fund for affordable housing.

On May 28, 2017, Clemson University and Columbia Theological Seminary graduate, Mary Kathleen Duncan, was installed as Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families. She told me recently that her call to ministry occurred when she was 12 and never waned. That same year, Westminster built another Habitat for Humanity house, one of several in recent years.

In 2018, long time Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Lud Weaver, retired along with his wife, Jean, our Parish Associate. The Weavers had informed the Session of their plans to retire well in advance of this date; this facilitated a seamless transition in leadership. Barb Stoop, long-time Associate Pastor for Children, retired in the summer of 2019.

After a diligent and thorough search, on February 10, 2019, Ben Dorr was installed as our sixth Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. Ben, his wife Heather, and sons Cooper and Sam, quickly assimilated into the Westminster family. Ben's preaching and gentle nature has served WPC so well in the 4 years he has led our congregation. Ben came to WPC from Northridge Presbyterian Church in Dallas; he's a graduate of Carleton College and Princeton Theological Seminary.

On February 2, 2020, Lauren Slingerland was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor for Children & Their Families. A graduate of Furman University and Columbia Theological Seminary, and a former educator, Lauren is the "host" of It's Elementary and Vacation Bible School, among other jobs. Her elementary education background and loving personality are serving us well. It's Elementary is in its 26th year.

Rounding out our Pastoral Staff, Julia Watkins was installed as Associate Pastor for Mission & Congregational Life on October 17, 2021. Julia graduated from Davidson College and Princeton Theological Seminary; as with all of our Pastors, her sermons are meaningful, relevant, and inspiring.

The Giants of Westminster

Throughout its 75 year history, like any other family of faith, the majority of jobs and responsibilities at Westminster have been undertaken by volunteers. As I close out this final piece on WPC's history, I would be remiss not to include what I will refer to as "The Giants of Westminster." This is a group of people whose names should be given to new members – never to be forgotten. They are the people no longer among us, who built our church, day in and day out, brick by brick, by repeatedly being at the front of the line to do the jobs and take on the responsibilities necessary for Westminster to thrive. These individuals served God's people both within our doors as well as out in the community and around the world. Some were among the 23 original pioneers who left First Presbyterian Church in 1947; others were charter members later in the 1940's. All were ordained by God to serve as Elders or Deacons for more than one term. Many also

as Trustees as well. All gave sacrificially of their time, talents and resources and never said "No - not this year." These incredibly dedicated men and women, with their families, were at the church every time the doors were open. The scriptures, values and moral teachings at WPC were a code they lived by and is what they taught their children. They were sinners in need of God's grace, but the way they lived their lives was a testament of thanksgiving for His grace. They were chairs/members of the many building/capital campaigns to enlarge and improve our physical plant. They were Sunday School teachers, Superintendents, Youth leaders, and basketball coaches. They were the ones who went to the bank on some Mondays when meeting the church's payroll was in doubt. They were chairs/members of the many pastoral search committees who brought us so many gifted pastors. They served the Denomination as members/chairs of Presbytery Council, the Synod of the South and as Commissioners of the General Assembly. These giants stayed when hundreds were leaving, and courageously worked to bring people together. They were the genesis for many local missions on whose boards they served and supported. They were loving, supportive friends of their pastors - even after they moved on in their careers. They were the ones who were vocal about the need for benevolences and mission mindedness. They encouraged us to take risks when the result could serve God's people better. They stood in front of the church office to greet everyone who walked by as an informal greeter for decades. They said we need to dream again. Everyone in WPC's family of faith volunteers from time to time. While we cannot name all who have contributed their love and sacrifice, these are some who did every job in the church repeatedly and never said no. May God's people know about and always remember their names and try to emulate their unwavering dedication to Westminster:

> GORDON BEAM GARLAND McGregor CHARLIE BELL Mac McGregor HOWARD BOYD TOMMY MILLER BK BRYAN MACK NIVEN Martha Carpenter DAVID NORRIS RICHARD CARPENTER CARL NUTTALL RICK CARPENTER Sara Payne Mary Frances Dodenhoff BUBBA PUNTCH HOTS EASIFY TIM RANEY Dave Edwards Fred Reed MFRIWETHER FARIS Jean Reed DUCKY GOWER CHARLIE RUNNION Tom Gower ALAN SIBLEY CARL HARPER AL SIVEWRIGHT ART HOWSON Jo Sivewright BILL JONES NEWT STALL KRISTEN KEENER CLAUDE SULLIVAN BILL KELLETT Cooper White BILL KIEFFER FRANK WILLIAMS ARTHUR MAGILI Bob Yeargin

> > Fred Carpenter