



Second Sunday after Epiphany

Preparation for **Worship**

"We are called to be fruitful - not successful, not productive, not accomplished. Success comes from strength, stress, and human effort. Fruitfulness comes from vulnerability and the admission of our own weakness."

- Henri Nouwen

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 *Prelude and Fugue in G Major* Bach

Choral Introit 11:15a *Alleluia!* O'Carroll

* Call to Worship *Isaiah 49*

Leader: The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb, God named me.

People: **God said, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."**

Leader: Thus says the Lord: "I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people."

People: **"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #463 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we know that we have deceived ourselves.

We take the time that you have given us for granted,

instead of treating it as your precious gift.

We hold our neighbors to a strict moral tightrope,

while we grade our own behavior on a curve.

We ignore our limitations.

We strive for success instead of service.

Our fears often lead us forward.

Forgive us, good and gracious God.

Grant us faithful and obedient hearts,

so that we would see our own lives clearly,

hear your call with clarity,

and love our neighbors courageously.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

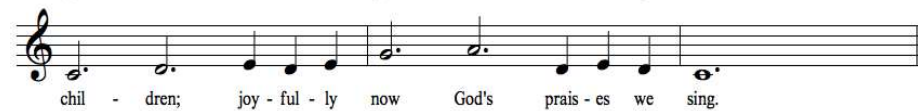
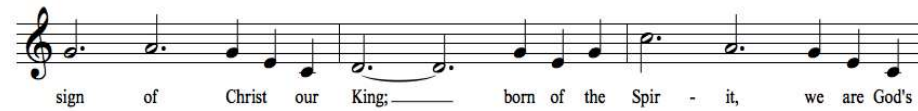
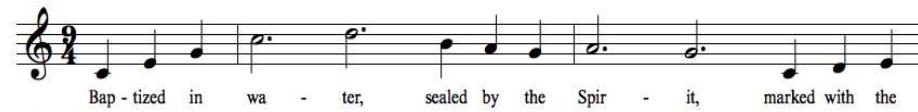
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* Gloria Patri #581 *GLORIA PATRI*

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 11:15a *Lila Mary Suggs*

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 4:18-22* p. 785

Old Testament Lesson, *Deuteronomy 34:1-12* p. 168

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *"Missing Out"*

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 Jesus Christ* Berthier

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 *Write Your Blessed Name* Scott

Anthem 11:15a *Lead, Kindly Light* arr. Wilberg

* Doxology #606 OLD HUNDRETH

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 #847 *Our Hope, Our Life* O Waly Waly

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response 11:15a *O Christ, Surround Me* Green Tyler

* Postlude *Laudation* Martin

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Nikki Grumbine (11:15a), *sponsor*

Hunter Smith (9a), Allison Muller (11:15a), *lay readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes (9a), *soloist*

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Parks Workman (9a), Rance Bryan (11:15a), *head ushers*

Bill Holt, Keith Stevenson, Jordan Smith,

Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman (9a), *greeters*

Rob Morgan, Lindsey Donlan, Jeff Beck,

Laura Williams Sanders Bill Holt (11:15a), *greeters*

Ellen Reynolds (9a), Ellis Bryan, Hayden Taylor (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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning at the 11:15a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship Lila Mary Suggs, daughter of David & Julie Suggs.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

In preparation for Kate Bowler being Westminster's Heritage Lecturer on January 19, The Theology Reading Group will discuss her recent book, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, at the January meeting. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion on Monday, January 16, at 7p in the Charter Room. All are invited.

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

Music is an important way to communicate with young children even before they are able to sing along. First Steps in Music is an opportunity at Westminster that provides important time for parents or grandparents to enjoy music with their child/grandchild. Led by WPC member Diana Dailey, the First Steps classes teach simple songs, games, and prayers for 2- and 3-year olds and adults to experience together. The next class will be offered from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, January 22 - March 12. For more information, contact Interim Music Director Rosemary Hughes or contact the church office.

Opportunities@WPC

LIGHTLY SEASONED GROUP

The Winter 2023 Lightly Seasoned Fellowship gathering has been scheduled for Saturday, January 28, at 6:30p at the home of Pam & Doug Evans (315 W. Faris Rd.).

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

Interested in learning more about Westminster's ministries of witness and service? Sign up for Outreach @ WPC and receive bi-weekly updates in your email inbox. Sign up on WPC's website or contact Wendy Bagley.

PURCHASE CAFÉ JUSTO COFFEE

Did you miss the chance to buy coffee at the Alternative Gift Market? A limited quantity is still available to purchase and pick up from WPC's front office for \$6/bag (<https://wpc-online.org/just-coffee/>).

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, January 18, at 12p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER - UPCOMING EVENTS

Circle Meetings

- Tuesday, January 17
 - Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr.) at 6:30p. Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

3rd Annual Churchwide Chili Cook-Off!

Mark your calendars for the churchwide chili cook-off on Sunday, January 22, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Eleven teams will be fighting for the top chili spot. Come taste all of the chili and vote for your favorites from traditional beef recipes, to vegetarian options, to chicken chili, and also spicy! Sign up online now for taste cards, raffle tickets for great prizes, and a potato bar with salad lunch.

Women of Westminster Retreat - February 24 - 26, 2023 at Montreat Conference Center

The Women of Westminster Retreat is a time to unwind, experience peace and relax. The immediate calm and serenity as you come into Montreat is apparent. It's truly beautiful. At the Westminster Women's Retreat, our hope is that you experience God in a new and powerful way; learn something new about yourself through the messages brought to us by our speaker, Reverend Anne Apple; meet new friends; grow relationships; and have a getaway weekend for yourself. Please join us for a weekend of devotions, fellowship, music and fun. Sign up now through January 20, 2023 via the WPC homepage. Single rooms are first come, first serve and fill up! Join up with a friend(s) to get a double or quad room! Contact the church office or Coleman Dixon, Moderator, with any questions.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, at 4:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

JUST ACTION ADVOCACY TRAINING

Join WPC partners, Mill Village Ministries and Greenville Homeless Alliance, for a 9-session advocacy training based on the JustFaith program. Participants will deepen their understanding of biblical justice and develop an action plan to advocate for a specific issue in the Greenville community. The program begins February 9th, and space is limited. Contact Julia Watkins for more information.

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160)
Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

Church Staff

Ben Dorr
Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Julia Watkins
Associate Pastor
jwatkins@wpc-online.org

Terri Price
Parish Associate
tprice@wpc-online.org

Rosemary Hughes
Interim Director of Music
rhughes@wpc-online.org

Kathryn Knauer
Children's Choir Coordinator
kknauer@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell
Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Cynthia Ellison
Financial Secretary
cellison@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15 - 22, 2023

Sunday, January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Creation Stewardship Meeting
- 10:00 One Adult Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting

Monday, January 16

Church Office Closed

Weekday School Closed

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

Tuesday, January 17

- 12:00p Al-Anon
- 6:30 Circle 7 meeting

Wednesday, January 18

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

Thursday, January 19

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 7:00p Heritage Lecture Event

Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 One Adult Sunday School
- Confirmation Class Meeting
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Women of Westminster Chili Cook-Off Event
- 4:15 Middler Mission Trip Interest Meeting
- 4:30 First Steps Music Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal
- Senior High Youth Group

the **HARBINGER**
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXV | January 15, 2023 | No. 38

From the Pews, Katherine Gettys

I recently lost my father. He was an amazing dad, he taught me about Jesus, prayed with me, and raised me in faith. My recent loss has me seeing our scripture today in a new way. In Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus calls two sets of brothers to be his disciples. "He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him." The word of God is a living document and I think that is why in my recent grief I am drawn to consider the dad, Zebedee, in this situation. Most of us have heard this bible story many times. (I encourage you to also read Luke 5 which offers more context around this moment.) I'll be honest and say I previously thought it was quite a sad moment when the brothers leave their father. It seems so abrupt. Since I just lost my dad and have the raw knowledge that no amount of time would have ever been enough; I would think the sad feeling this passage used to trigger would be stronger – but in fact it is quite the contrary.

I used to imagine James and John leaving their dad, then pictured a sorrowful Zebedee trying to mend his nets all alone. Now, I realize I had the emotion surrounding this moment all wrong. Of course, there is sadness as your children leave "the nest," but it is much more complex than that. You see, Jesus had been hanging out in Zebedee's hometown - preaching and performing miracles in Galilee. Their neighbors and townsmen had been showing up to listen and see the miracles. There was such a crowd to hear Jesus that day, that Jesus got on Peter's fishing boat to preach to the shore. I mention this to point out that I feel sure Zebedee had been hearing of the man, Jesus. I imagine that Zebedee was a faithful man and his whole family had been waiting on the Messiah who now, literally stood preaching before them and overflowing their decks with fish. Zebedee, the dad of James and John, was "astonished" at his works and when Jesus called Zebedee's sons to follow Him and to become "fishers of men," I doubt sadness or dejection was his primary emotion. Rather, I picture Zebedee humbled, and yet filled with fatherly pride that his sons had the faith he had prayed for and they would be used meaningfully in Jesus' ministry.

Parents spend their lives raising and teaching their children and hope they will carry on in faith as they become adults. I am glad that the grief I have from losing my dad helped me to focus on the father in this passage. Like Mary Kathleen Duncan recently taught us, I am glad I didn't miss it... I am thankful God didn't let me miss this chance to see Zebedee for the faithfully proud man he was in the moment his sons were called to be disciples.

welcome back!

Children Sunday School Class Locations

Children ages 3K- 5th grade meet on the 100 hall to explore the stories of God’s faithfulness using the PCUSA curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. Come and see how children build relationships and grow in faith during the Sunday School hour. Families lead the lessons and are encouraged in their faith also. For more information about Sunday School, speak with Parks Workman or Lauren Slingerland.

Children - Growing in Grace & Gratitude

3K/4K (Room 102)

5K/1st (Room 109)

2nd/3rd (Movie Room)

4th/5th (Room 112)

Youth Sunday School Class Locations

Youth - Feasting on the Word

Middlers (Youth Suite)

Senior Highs (Game Room of Youth Suite)

Westminster Academy

Adult Sunday School (January 2023)

featuring Dr. Bob Bryant - Herrington Professor of Bible in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Presbyterian College

The Radical Paul

The Apostle Paul understood Christianity not as a system of ethics but as a transformative relationship with the living, mysterious God revealed in Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. Paul’s understanding of the Christ-event shapes the way we worship, speak, and consider the God revealed to us in scripture and the life of Christ. Join us for this four week lecture style class to learn more about Paul’s life, theology, and legacy.

January 8: Paul: The Man and the Myth

January 15: The Generative Center: Exploring Paul’s Faith

January 22: The Way of the Cross

January 29: The Life of the Spirit

Bio: Dr. Bryant, an expert in Biblical languages and Pauline scholar, has been a professor at Presbyterian College since 1998 and has served as a visiting scholar at Duke University. Dr. Bryant studied at Virginia Tech and Union Presbyterian Seminary. He is an avid outdoorsman, traveler, and woodworker. We are grateful that he is joining us this month. Please welcome him in worship and Sunday school!

welcome back!

Children Sunday School Class Locations

Children ages 3K- 5th grade meet on the 100 hall to explore the stories of God’s faithfulness using the PCUSA curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. Come and see how children build relationships and grow in faith during the Sunday School hour. Families lead the lessons and are encouraged in their faith also. For more information about Sunday School, speak with Parks Workman or Lauren Slingerland.

Children - Growing in Grace & Gratitude

3K/4K (Room 102)

5K/1st (Room 109)

2nd/3rd (Movie Room)

4th/5th (Room 112)

Youth Sunday School Class Locations

Youth - Feasting on the Word

Middlers (Youth Suite)

Senior Highs (Game Room of Youth Suite)

Westminster Academy

Adult Sunday School (January 2023)

featuring Dr. Bob Bryant - Herrington Professor of Bible in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Presbyterian College

The Radical Paul

The Apostle Paul understood Christianity not as a system of ethics but as a transformative relationship with the living, mysterious God revealed in Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. Paul’s understanding of the Christ-event shapes the way we worship, speak, and consider the God revealed to us in scripture and the life of Christ. Join us for this four week lecture style class to learn more about Paul’s life, theology, and legacy.

January 8: Paul: The Man and the Myth

January 15: The Generative Center: Exploring Paul’s Faith

January 22: The Way of the Cross

January 29: The Life of the Spirit

Bio: Dr. Bryant, an expert in Biblical languages and Pauline scholar, has been a professor at Presbyterian College since 1998 and has served as a visiting scholar at Duke University. Dr. Bryant studied at Virginia Tech and Union Presbyterian Seminary. He is an avid outdoorsman, traveler, and woodworker. We are grateful that he is joining us this month. Please welcome him in worship and Sunday school!

welcome back!

Children Sunday School Class Locations

Children ages 3K- 5th grade meet on the 100 hall to explore the stories of God’s faithfulness using the PCUSA curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. Come and see how children build relationships and grow in faith during the Sunday School hour. Families lead the lessons and are encouraged in their faith also. For more information about Sunday School, speak with Parks Workman or Lauren Slingerland.

Children - Growing in Grace & Gratitude

3K/4K (Room 102)

5K/1st (Room 109)

2nd/3rd (Movie Room)

4th/5th (Room 112)

Youth Sunday School Class Locations

Youth - Feasting on the Word

Middlers (Youth Suite)

Senior Highs (Game Room of Youth Suite)

Westminster Academy

Adult Sunday School (January 2023)

featuring Dr. Bob Bryant - Herrington Professor of Bible in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Presbyterian College

The Radical Paul

The Apostle Paul understood Christianity not as a system of ethics but as a transformative relationship with the living, mysterious God revealed in Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. Paul’s understanding of the Christ-event shapes the way we worship, speak, and consider the God revealed to us in scripture and the life of Christ. Join us for this four week lecture style class to learn more about Paul’s life, theology, and legacy.

January 8: Paul: The Man and the Myth

January 15: The Generative Center: Exploring Paul’s Faith

January 22: The Way of the Cross

January 29: The Life of the Spirit

Bio: Dr. Bryant, an expert in Biblical languages and Pauline scholar, has been a professor at Presbyterian College since 1998 and has served as a visiting scholar at Duke University. Dr. Bryant studied at Virginia Tech and Union Presbyterian Seminary. He is an avid outdoorsman, traveler, and woodworker. We are grateful that he is joining us this month. Please welcome him in worship and Sunday school!

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 29, 2023, immediately following the 11:15a worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is threefold:

- a) To vote on the proposed terms of call for 2023 for our pastoral staff;
- b) To receive the 2023 operating budget;
- c) To elect 12 elders (Class of 2026) to the Session.

The proposed slate being presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

Elders:	Emily Cole	Walker Miller
	Ingrid Erwin	Stan Pendergrass
	Roger Gower	Betsy Raines
	Amy Hawkins	Jeff Reynolds
	Anne Howson	Susan Robbins
	George McLarty	Zach Weaver

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 29, 2023, immediately following the 11:15a worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is threefold:

- a) To vote on the proposed terms of call for 2023 for our pastoral staff;
- b) To receive the 2023 operating budget;
- c) To elect 12 elders (Class of 2026) to the Session.

The proposed slate being presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

Elders:	Emily Cole	Walker Miller
	Ingrid Erwin	Stan Pendergrass
	Roger Gower	Betsy Raines
	Amy Hawkins	Jeff Reynolds
	Anne Howson	Susan Robbins
	George McLarty	Zach Weaver

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 29, 2023, immediately following the 11:15a worship service.

The purpose of the meeting is threefold:

- a) To vote on the proposed terms of call for 2023 for our pastoral staff;
- b) To receive the 2023 operating budget;
- c) To elect 12 elders (Class of 2026) to the Session.

The proposed slate being presented by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

Elders:	Emily Cole	Walker Miller
	Ingrid Erwin	Stan Pendergrass
	Roger Gower	Betsy Raines
	Amy Hawkins	Jeff Reynolds
	Anne Howson	Susan Robbins
	George McLarty	Zach Weaver

Heritage Lecturer

January 19, 2023

Dr. Kate Bowler***"Life After Perfect"***

New York Times bestselling author, Duke University professor, and incurable optimist Kate Bowler, Ph.D., will illustrate her take on the theme of Courage and Belonging in her talk as a cancer survivor. Her latest memoir, *No Cure For Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, grapples with her diagnosis, her ambition and her faith as she tries to come to terms with limitations in a culture that promises anything is possible. She focuses her studies on the cultural stories we tell ourselves about success, suffering and whether (or not) we're capable of change.

"Reflection"

Kelley: *We all have a cancer story. A friend, a parent, a child, a co-worker, an aunt. We've taken meals, prayed in prayer chains, run marathons for Team in Training, begged God for mercy, knitted hats for bald heads, made donations, celebrated cancer milestones big and small, attended funerals. We've thought "I'm glad it's not me," wondered with anger "why me?" or proclaimed with sorrow "I'm so sorry it's you."*

Caroline: *When I was 19, I lost my friend, Emily, to my dad's cancer. I was in college and she was pestering me to go do something fun (I can't remember what). I demurred, she pestered, and finally another friend listening interjected, "Emily, her dad's DYING." Emily's eyes widened and then she turned, hurrying back to her dorm room. I thought she was angry with me, but now I realize with perspective that she was probably horrified by her insensitivity. She barely spoke to me the rest of the school year, and our friendship was over.*

It's difficult not to consider your own pain, your own mortality, your own anxieties, when thinking about the possibility of an acquaintance, friend, or relative dying, or when facing a diagnosis at the age of 35 - or any age - that comes with a loose promise of six months, two years, a little bit of time. And yet you can't think about our Heritage Lecture Speaker, Kate Bowler, and her work, without thinking about her response to these harsh realities. Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, among her other titles, and her forthcoming book, *The Lives we Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*, acknowledge our reactions to a range of topics that we would often rather not think about, along with our striving attempts and ultimate failures to achieve perfection when dealing with these scenarios.

But what we see and feel when we listen and read Kate's work and her thoughtful reactions to such difficulties is a wicked sense of smart, self-deprecating, brilliant humor, a depth that's both genuine and the result of years and years of focused study, an approachable and gentle warmth, and a willingness and aptitude both before and after her diagnosis to wrestle with the Big Questions. She can't teach us all of the answers, but she can help us understand, relate, and approach and be approached with sensitivity and grace.

We're honored, excited, and grateful for the opportunity to hear her speak at Westminster.

-Kelley Barnhardt and Caroline Clark

Heritage Lecturer

January 19, 2023

Dr. Kate Bowler***"Life After Perfect"***

New York Times bestselling author, Duke University professor, and incurable optimist Kate Bowler, Ph.D., will illustrate her take on the theme of Courage and Belonging in her talk as a cancer survivor. Her latest memoir, *No Cure For Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, grapples with her diagnosis, her ambition and her faith as she tries to come to terms with limitations in a culture that promises anything is possible. She focuses her studies on the cultural stories we tell ourselves about success, suffering and whether (or not) we're capable of change.

"Reflection"

Kelley: *We all have a cancer story. A friend, a parent, a child, a co-worker, an aunt. We've taken meals, prayed in prayer chains, run marathons for Team in Training, begged God for mercy, knitted hats for bald heads, made donations, celebrated cancer milestones big and small, attended funerals. We've thought "I'm glad it's not me," wondered with anger "why me?" or proclaimed with sorrow "I'm so sorry it's you."*

Caroline: *When I was 19, I lost my friend, Emily, to my dad's cancer. I was in college and she was pestering me to go do something fun (I can't remember what). I demurred, she pestered, and finally another friend listening interjected, "Emily, her dad's DYING." Emily's eyes widened and then she turned, hurrying back to her dorm room. I thought she was angry with me, but now I realize with perspective that she was probably horrified by her insensitivity. She barely spoke to me the rest of the school year, and our friendship was over.*

It's difficult not to consider your own pain, your own mortality, your own anxieties, when thinking about the possibility of an acquaintance, friend, or relative dying, or when facing a diagnosis at the age of 35 - or any age - that comes with a loose promise of six months, two years, a little bit of time. And yet you can't think about our Heritage Lecture Speaker, Kate Bowler, and her work, without thinking about her response to these harsh realities. Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, among her other titles, and her forthcoming book, *The Lives we Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*, acknowledge our reactions to a range of topics that we would often rather not think about, along with our striving attempts and ultimate failures to achieve perfection when dealing with these scenarios.

But what we see and feel when we listen and read Kate's work and her thoughtful reactions to such difficulties is a wicked sense of smart, self-deprecating, brilliant humor, a depth that's both genuine and the result of years and years of focused study, an approachable and gentle warmth, and a willingness and aptitude both before and after her diagnosis to wrestle with the Big Questions. She can't teach us all of the answers, but she can help us understand, relate, and approach and be approached with sensitivity and grace.

We're honored, excited, and grateful for the opportunity to hear her speak at Westminster.

-Kelley Barnhardt and Caroline Clark

Heritage Lecturer

January 19, 2023

Dr. Kate Bowler***"Life After Perfect"***

New York Times bestselling author, Duke University professor, and incurable optimist Kate Bowler, Ph.D., will illustrate her take on the theme of Courage and Belonging in her talk as a cancer survivor. Her latest memoir, *No Cure For Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, grapples with her diagnosis, her ambition and her faith as she tries to come to terms with limitations in a culture that promises anything is possible. She focuses her studies on the cultural stories we tell ourselves about success, suffering and whether (or not) we're capable of change.

"Reflection"

Kelley: *We all have a cancer story. A friend, a parent, a child, a co-worker, an aunt. We've taken meals, prayed in prayer chains, run marathons for Team in Training, begged God for mercy, knitted hats for bald heads, made donations, celebrated cancer milestones big and small, attended funerals. We've thought "I'm glad it's not me," wondered with anger "why me?" or proclaimed with sorrow "I'm so sorry it's you."*

Caroline: *When I was 19, I lost my friend, Emily, to my dad's cancer. I was in college and she was pestering me to go do something fun (I can't remember what). I demurred, she pestered, and finally another friend listening interjected, "Emily, her dad's DYING." Emily's eyes widened and then she turned, hurrying back to her dorm room. I thought she was angry with me, but now I realize with perspective that she was probably horrified by her insensitivity. She barely spoke to me the rest of the school year, and our friendship was over.*

It's difficult not to consider your own pain, your own mortality, your own anxieties, when thinking about the possibility of an acquaintance, friend, or relative dying, or when facing a diagnosis at the age of 35 - or any age - that comes with a loose promise of six months, two years, a little bit of time. And yet you can't think about our Heritage Lecture Speaker, Kate Bowler, and her work, without thinking about her response to these harsh realities. Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, among her other titles, and her forthcoming book, *The Lives we Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*, acknowledge our reactions to a range of topics that we would often rather not think about, along with our striving attempts and ultimate failures to achieve perfection when dealing with these scenarios.

But what we see and feel when we listen and read Kate's work and her thoughtful reactions to such difficulties is a wicked sense of smart, self-deprecating, brilliant humor, a depth that's both genuine and the result of years and years of focused study, an approachable and gentle warmth, and a willingness and aptitude both before and after her diagnosis to wrestle with the Big Questions. She can't teach us all of the answers, but she can help us understand, relate, and approach and be approached with sensitivity and grace.

We're honored, excited, and grateful for the opportunity to hear her speak at Westminster.

-Kelley Barnhardt and Caroline Clark

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church!
Open minds open hearts.

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church!
Open minds open hearts.

Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church!
Open minds open hearts.

The Heritage Lecture Series seeks to expand the religious horizons of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Greenville community by inviting guest lecturers to challenge and inspire us toward deeper understanding and renewed commitment to biblical teachings, our Judeo-Christian heritage and our responsibilities in the world.

The Heritage Lecture Series seeks to expand the religious horizons of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Greenville community by inviting guest lecturers to challenge and inspire us toward deeper understanding and renewed commitment to biblical teachings, our Judeo-Christian heritage and our responsibilities in the world.

The Heritage Lecture Series seeks to expand the religious horizons of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Greenville community by inviting guest lecturers to challenge and inspire us toward deeper understanding and renewed commitment to biblical teachings, our Judeo-Christian heritage and our responsibilities in the world.

The Lecture will be streamed at wpc-online.org (password: Kate)
Please refrain from video recording.

The Lecture will be streamed at wpc-online.org (password: Kate)
Please refrain from video recording.

The Lecture will be streamed at wpc-online.org (password: Kate)
Please refrain from video recording.

The doors will open at 6pm. Seating is first-come, first-served.
Please note that recording (audio and visual)
is not permitted during the event,
and that we cannot guarantee personal access to Dr. Bowler.

The doors will open at 6pm. Seating is first-come, first-served.
Please note that recording (audio and visual)
is not permitted during the event,
and that we cannot guarantee personal access to Dr. Bowler.

The doors will open at 6pm. Seating is first-come, first-served.
Please note that recording (audio and visual)
is not permitted during the event,
and that we cannot guarantee personal access to Dr. Bowler.



An audience Q&A will follow Dr Bowler's talk. Please use the above QR code to text questions directly to our staff facilitators.

An audience Q&A will follow Dr Bowler's talk. Please use the above QR code to text questions directly to our staff facilitators.

An audience Q&A will follow Dr Bowler's talk. Please use the above QR code to text questions directly to our staff facilitators.

To learn more about Life at Westminster and receive updates about our ministries, text "wpcgreenville" to 864.232.2424 or follow the QR code below.

To learn more about Life at Westminster and receive updates about our ministries, text "wpcgreenville" to 864.232.2424 or follow the QR code below.

To learn more about Life at Westminster and receive updates about our ministries, text "wpcgreenville" to 864.232.2424 or follow the QR code below.

