



**Pentecost**

Preparation for **Worship**

What happens between us when we come together to worship God is that the Holy Spirit swoops in and out among us, knitting us together through the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the breaths we breathe. It can happen with two people and it can happen with two thousand people. It can scare us or comfort us, confuse us or clarify things for us, but as far as I can tell the Holy Spirit never bullies us. We are always free to choose whether or how we will respond.

–Barbara Brown Taylor from “The Gospel of the Holy Spirit” in *Home by Another Way*

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 *Hymn for the Lost and the Living* Ewazen

\* Call to Worship 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7

Leader: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;  
**People: and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;**

Leader: and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

**People: To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 393 *ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELIN*

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

\* Prayer of Confession

**Comforting God, you sent your Spirit as a sign of peace that we would not dwell in fear, yet we mistake your peace for thin placation and your comfort for the absence of conflict.**

**Challenging God, you sent your Spirit to wake us from our slumber that we would seek your justice and truth, yet we are prone to pit neighbor against neighbor and dehumanize those with whom we disagree.**

**Forgive us, O God, and renew us by your Spirit that we would be open to the fullness of life and inspired to follow the movement of your call.**

**In 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, Hymn 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.**

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

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *John 20:19-23* p. 883

New Testament Lesson, Acts 2:1-21 p. 885

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Holy Comforter/Holy Challenger"

Responding to **God’s Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory, Hymn 291 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" SPIRIT  
*Please join in singing the refrain as invited.*

\* Doxology, Hymn 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 372 "O for a World" AZMON

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude *Finale on NICA EA* Post

*\*All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Julia Watkins, *preaching*

Terri Price, *liturgist*

Marlon Hurst, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organ, piano*

Judy McKenney, *guitar*

C.J. Waldrop, *trumpet*

Diana Dailey, Rosemary Hughes, Marlon Hurst, *soloists*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

George McLarty, Ross Glidewell, Jara Jones, Meg McKnight, Laura Cox, *greeters*

**Worship Notes**

**LIFT UP YOUR VOICE**

Today and over the next two Sundays the congregation will be invited to participate in the offertory music. Each week a simple instruction will be included in the Harbinger at the appropriate point in the service. You are encouraged to lift your voices in song!

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND**

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

**PENTECOST OFFERING**

This annual offering taken by Presbyterian Churches goes to aid children, youth, and young adults. The money helps children at risk both here and abroad. Plus, a portion of the gifts strengthens ministries nurturing the faith of our young people and developing leaders of tomorrow. Twenty percent of the offering is retained by the local church. We invite you to participate in this vital ministry. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Pentecost Offering.

**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. The Women’s Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caretaker and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

**Join Us in Welcoming**

**BIRTHS**

The birth of a son, *Daniel Townsend Matthews, Jr.*, to Dan & Sarah Matthews on Friday, March 3, 2023.

The birth of a daughter, *Laney Maybank Weed*, to Banks & Mary Frances Weed on Friday, May 12, 2023.

**We Remember in Prayer**

Ashley Gettys on the death of her father, Richard Alan Terrill, May 19, 2023.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JUNE 11**

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, June 11, immediately following the 10a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the Session’s recommendation that we purchase the property on which the current Gantt Uniform Shop resides. The Finance Committee will also provide an update on the 2022 end-of-year financials, and the 2023 budget. There will be no meeting on June 4 (as was originally publicized).

**SUMMER CHOIR!**

Would you like to sing in the choir but don’t know if you can make the time commitment during the regular season? Summer Choir provides a commitment-free opportunity to give the choir a try - whether you want to take a "test run" or simply sing without the commitment of a midweek rehearsal. For each Sunday in June, the Summer Choir will gather in the choir room at 9a to learn and rehearse a choral anthem and the service music for 10a worship. All you need to do to participate is show up! If you would like more information, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music at mhurst@wpc-online.org.

Opportunities @WPC

LOW COUNTRY BOIL - JUNE 4

Kick off the summer with shrimp, sausage, and plenty of stecca at WPC's Low Country Boil. Share in the fun at Magnetic South Brewery in Judson Mill (701 Easley Bridge Rd. #4155, Greenville, 29611) on Sunday, June 4, from 5-7p. Families are welcome; childcare will not be provided. This event is free to the WPC community, but space is limited. RSVP on WPC's website. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Contact Julia Watkins or signup online to help.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Our Children's Church attendance is growing and we need your help! Volunteering with Children's Church is a wonderful and fun opportunity to get to know our Kindergartners and First Graders. We are looking for at least three helping hands for each Sunday during the 10a service. Usually about 25-30 children attend. It is an EASY way to nurture our children. A pastor leads the lesson and you provide a craft or supervise playtime in the room or the gym. Please contact Lindsey Donlan or Lauren Slingerland for more information. Thank you for considering!

PLEASANT VALLEY SUMMER CAMP

WPC is thrilled to partner with Pleasant Valley Connection's summer program again this year. We are looking for members to share their special skills/talents/hobbies with elementary-aged children at PVC. Volunteers will be with children one hour per week for at least two consecutive weeks. Complete the interest form on WPC's website to get connected. Questions? Contact Julia Watkins.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

We would like to list the names of our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 232-2424. The names will be listed in the June 11 Harbinger - deadline for this info is **June 4**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School graduating from: \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, May 30

- **Circle 7**, at the home of Gaye Sprague (10 Grey St) at 6:30p. Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

THORNWELL SUMMER PARTY

Join in some fun in the sun with Thornwell! On Sunday afternoon, June 25, WPC will host a summer party on Thornwell's campus in Clinton, SC. Guests will be around 50 youth and host families participating in Thornwell's transitional living program. Volunteers will carpool to Clinton to run games, grill burgers and hot dogs, and hang out with youth by the pool. Register through the website.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Women of Westminster offers scholarships to provide financial aid among college and graduate student membership within our church. This year Westminster is also partnering with a local agency, Fostering Great Ideas, so that a matched portion of funds will support students in the foster care system. Any first-time applicants from Westminster who will be furthering their education in the fall are invited to apply within the application rules-see application online for details. Applications are available online at [www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org) or from the church office. Applicants may contact Jill Fairey (803)920-2071 with any questions. The deadline is Monday, June 26, 2023. Church members are reminded that memorials and donations may be designated to this scholarship fund to aid in its continuation.

**THE HARBINGER**  
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
May 28 - June 4, 2023

Sunday, May 28

- Pentecost**
- 9:00a Creation Stewardship Meeting
  - 9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
  - 10:00 Worship Service with communion
  - 11:00 Donut Fellowship

Monday, May 29

Church Office Closed  
Weekday School Closed

Tuesday, May 30

Weekday School Closed  
12:00p Al-Anon  
6:30 Circle 7

Wednesday, May 31

Weekday School Closed  
4:00p 8th Grade Bible Study

Thursday, June 1

Weekday School Closed  
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, June 2

Weekday School Closed

Sunday, June 4

- First Sunday after Pentecost**
- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
  - 10:00 Worship Service
  - 11:00 Donut Fellowship
  - 5:00p Low Country Boil



**Our Vision:**  
*Open Minds Open Hearts*

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Our Pillars:</b> | <b>Our Goals:</b> |
| <i>Hospitality</i>  | <i>Connect</i>    |
| <i>Generosity</i>   | <i>Serve</i>      |
| <i>Justice</i>      | <i>Grow</i>       |
| <i>Imagination</i>  |                   |
| <i>Joy</i>          |                   |

the  
**HARBINGER**  
*open minds open hearts*

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**From the Pews, Donn James**

John 20:19-23

Our gospel lesson takes place on Sunday evening after Jesus has been crucified. He has risen, but he has not yet appeared to the disciples. The disciples are in a room with the doors locked. They are in great fear of the Roman authorities and of the Jewish leaders, who are threatening them. They are fearful for their lives, their families, and their future. Jesus comes and stands among them and says, "Peace be with you." He shows them his scarred hands and his side. They are overjoyed when they see the Lord, and their fears subside.

Again, Jesus says, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

We all have fears – some big, some little, and some in-between. We fear failure, we fear the unknown, we fear the future, we fear letting others down, we fear we are not adequate, we fear those who think differently than us, we fear those who look different than us. We fear, like the Apostle Paul, that sometimes we don't do what we wish to do and do what we hate to do. Just as Jesus and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples, the Spirit has been sent to help and guide us.

As the pastor, Diaz-Pabon, writes, "...the Holy Spirit – He comforts us, helps us, guides us, comes alongside us, counsels us, and intercedes and advocates for us. There is no area in life in which the believer does not need the help of the Holy Spirit."

In my life I find the Holy Spirit when I read the Bible, hear a sermon, when I am alone thinking, and especially when I am with others. I think the Holy Spirit works through all sorts of people who do some of the things listed above. I think of the cloud of witnesses, both past and present, that have been the Holy Spirit's presence in my life. I have been truly blessed by these people! How about you?