



**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Preparation for **Worship**

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

from *Prophets of a Future Not Our Own* by Bishop Ken Untener

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 C Major* J.S. Bach

Call to Worship Psalm 66:1-2,5,8

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

**People: Sing to the glory of God's name; give to God glorious praise.**

Leader: Come and see what God has done; God is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

**People: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of God's praise be heard.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 54 "Make a Joyful Noise to God" Dix

\* Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, you hold the past, present, and future in your hands.**

**We confess that we do not always treat time as a sacred gift.**

**Inpatient, we rush to results that do not satisfy.**

**Prideful, we imagine that our efforts alone determine our path.**

**Undisciplined, we abandon hours to fruitless pursuits.**

**Despairing, we disinvest in the precious moments we are given.**

**Forgive us, we pray,**

**and grant us the faith to sow seeds we may never reap,**

**the humility to entrust growth to your guiding hand,**

**the hope to tend with our whole hearts,**

**and the patience to witness what your Spirit will finally do.**

**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, *Matthew 13:31-33* p. 795

Old Testament Lesson, *Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7* p. 638

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Ministry of the Mustard Seed"

Responding to **God's Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, PCUSA

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,**

**everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles**

**rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,**

**engages us through the Word proclaimed,**

**claims us in the waters of baptism,**

**feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,**

**and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**With believers in every time and place,**

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death**

**can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

Offertory *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* ROBERTS

\* 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 686 "God of our Life" SANDON

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude *The Solid Rock* Shackley

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Julia Watkins, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

Kathryn Knauer, *soloist*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell,

Keith Stevenson, Meg McKnight, *greeters*

Maisie Lucas, *acolyte*

**Worship Notes**

**NURSERY**

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**A GENTLE REMINDER**

Summer is an opportunity for vacations, the beach, and time with family and friends. But even when we are away, the church remains active, with our children and youth ministries going strong, the weekday school running throughout the summer, and numerous outside groups using our facilities. In addition, our mission partners depend on us all year long. If possible, we ask you to consider keeping your giving up to date. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to God's work at Westminster.

**WINDOWS OF OUR FAITH**

In 2022, to mark 75 years of faithfulness to God's call on our congregation, the 75th Committee commissioned an installation to highlight the stories of faith embedded in our stained glass windows. Thanks to the creative imagination of Bill Donohue and Emanate Brands, alongside the work of photographer Matthew Franklin Carter and Becca Donohue at TPM, the 200-hall is now illuminated with to-scale models of the stained glass windows. We encourage you to spend time learning about the design of the windows; to imagine them as guided devotionals that anchor you to this place and animate your own sense of faithfulness to God's call.

Opportunities @WPC

WPC KIDS EVENTS

POPSICLES IN THE PARK, JULY 12

Children ages 0-10 and their grownups are invited to join us at 10a at Rockwood Park (398 Meyers Drive) for a morning of play with other WPC families. Popsicles will be provided!

IT'S ELEMENTARY

This year It's Elementary will be learning about the seasons of the church year. Our theme is, "Ordinary, Extraordinary." There are many ways to nurture our children in this unique, after school ministry on Wednesdays. If you are interested in learning more about those roles contact Lauren Slingerland or Caroline Blouin.

YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

Throughout the summer, we have various opportunities for youth to engage in fun and fellowship. Calendars can be found on Instagram (@wpc\_yg) and hard copies are in the atrium and outside of the main office. All events require registration on our website. Rising 6th graders are invited to join us for the Drive Game on 8/2. We hope to see you this summer!

LIGHTLY SEASONED GROUP

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties and sixties, will meet Saturday, July 22, at 6:30p at the home of Gaye & Joel Sprague (10 Grey St). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's web site ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

GREENVILLE LITERACY

Westminster is a collection site for "The Really Good, Really Big, Really Cheap Book Sale" of the Greenville Literacy Association. The collection bin is located at the church office entrance. Deadline for this year's book donations is Thursday, July 13. For more information and a listing of donatable items, visit www.greenvilleliteracy.org.

PROJECT HOST

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for ways to serve this summer? Join volunteers from both WPC and the wider community to lend a hand at the Project Host Soup Kitchen every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. Volunteers will prepare, serve, and clean up a meal for our vulnerable neighbors, many of whom are experiencing homelessness. This is a great way to extend hospitality while getting a glimpse of some of the inequities in our own backyard. Sign up on WPC's website.

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

**Our Pillars:**

*Hospitality*

*Generosity*

*Justice*

*Imagination*

*Joy*

**Our Goals:**

*Connect*

*Serve*

*Grow*

**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](mailto:bdorr@wpc-online.org)

**Leigh Stuckey**  
Executive Associate Pastor  
[lstuckey@wpc-online.org](mailto:lstuckey@wpc-online.org)

**Mary Kathleen Duncan**  
Associate Pastor  
[mkduncan@wpc-online.org](mailto:mkduncan@wpc-online.org)

**Lauren Slingerland**  
Associate Pastor  
[lslingerland@wpc-online.org](mailto:lslingerland@wpc-online.org)

**Julia Watkins**  
Associate Pastor  
[jwatkins@wpc-online.org](mailto:jwatkins@wpc-online.org)

**Terri Price**  
Parish Associate  
[tprice@wpc-online.org](mailto:tprice@wpc-online.org)

**Marlon Hurst**  
Director of Music  
[mhurst@wpc-online.org](mailto:mhurst@wpc-online.org)

**Kathryn Knauer**  
Children's Choir Coordinator  
[kknauer@wpc-online.org](mailto:kknauer@wpc-online.org)

**Todd Monsell**  
Organist  
[tmonsell@wpc-online.org](mailto:tmonsell@wpc-online.org)

**Cara Puntch**  
Weekday School Director  
[cpuntch@wpc-online.org](mailto:cpuntch@wpc-online.org)

**David Edwards**  
Business Administrator  
[dedwards@wpc-online.org](mailto:dedwards@wpc-online.org)

**Lynn Bennett**  
Financial Manager  
[lbennett@wpc-online.org](mailto:lbennett@wpc-online.org)

**Michelle Little**  
Office Manager  
[michelle@wpc-online.org](mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org)

**Wendy Bagley**  
Secretary  
[wendy@wpc-online.org](mailto:wendy@wpc-online.org)

**Aly Friend**  
Director of Nurseries  
[alyfriend@wpc-online.org](mailto:alyfriend@wpc-online.org)

**Steve Phillips**  
Building Supervisor  
[sphillips@wpc-online.org](mailto:sphillips@wpc-online.org)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9 - 16, 2023

Sunday, July 9

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Donut Fellowship

Monday, July 10

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, July 11

- 12:00p AI-Anon

Wednesday, July 12

- 10:00a Popsicles in the Park

Thursday, July 13

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, July 15

- 11:00a Middlers to Skyzone

Sunday, July 16

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Donut Fellowship

THE SESSION

The Class of 2024

Hastings Blumer	Toni Paylor
Laura Cox	Neil Shurley
Jay Culclasure	Keith Stevenson
Ross Glidewell	Lesley Usher
Jara Jones	LeAnne White
Meg McKnight	Russ Williams

The Class of 2025

Jacob Barker	Nikki Grumbine
Marian Carpenter	Bill Holt
Lindsey Donlan	Ginny Reed
Carroll Farmer	Jordan Smith
Zach Freeman	Tom Vanderbloemen
Susan Grier	Parks Workman

The Class of 2026

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

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

VOLUME LXXVII | July 9, 2023 | No. 11

**From the Pews, Scott & Susan Clark**

We have fifty-two cookbooks stacked, shelved and ordered in and around our kitchen. Some titles and writers that are probably familiar to you. There is Ina and Martha and Julia, of course. The Junior League from the various southern cities that we have lived in seems overrepresented in our collection. The best book in the group was not written by a TV star or a Sumter PTA group. The best one is comprised of recipes assembled from family favorites passed down from one generation to the next. The names in that book might not be as familiar to you as the others. There is Susie, Ruth, Nancy, Punk, Judy, Linda and Ann. Women that fed families over three generations. These recipes tell a lot about who those women are or were and where they came from.

No matter where you come from, if you are someone who cooks regularly, you can probably produce a reliable lasagna or meatloaf recipe. But you might not have a go to for crab imperial or a crab cake recipe with only four ingredients that produces the only crab cakes this family will eat. If you trace your roots to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, you probably do have both of those recipes in your arsenal.

Turns out, those four basic, handwritten ingredients in the crab cake recipe are well-known to just about everyone – crab, mayonnaise, Old Bay and crushed saltines. Good ingredients – the big things – are important for sure, but as it happens the little things matter too. How much of this, how long for that. It's those little things that ultimately make the big difference.

Beyond tradition and heritage, the recipes in this book are cherished for another reason – they are handwritten by the person who made them special. A person's handwriting is a deeply evocative thing. Just looking at the handwriting of a mother or a father, for instance, evokes powerful feelings of nostalgia – a birthday card, a cancelled check, a word of encouragement slipped into a school lunch bag or a grocery list casually written and discarded, but discovered unexpectedly years later in a utility drawer. Reading it is almost like hearing that person's voice. Handwriting is quietly one of the most intimate indicators about your relationship with a person. If you know someone's handwriting well, that person is probably an important person to you.

If you have been fortunate enough to have family and loved ones in your life, then it means those people had time and opportunity to make an impression on you. Time and opportunity to write their love on your heart. There are, however, many, many more people who will be in and out of your life with whom you won't have that time and opportunity. You may only get a short time and little opportunity – a mustard seed's worth.

Someone two streets over in the neighborhood who walks her dog on your street and who you know enough to ask her thoughts on the weather but little else. A grocery clerk who always has a smile but also a heart heavy with loss and unspoken grief. The person at the other end of your pew whose name you have seen countless times in the Ritual of Friendship but never uttered in a greeting.

What can you write for such people? What love or joy can you put in their lives in the short time and little opportunity you get with them? It could be that it is indeed only a little thing, some token of human kindness, a word to let them know that you see them and you see them trying. But it could be that the little thing is the thing that makes the big difference.