



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Preparation for **Worship**

“What people don’t realize is how much religion costs. They think faith is a big electric blanket, when of course it is the cross. It is much harder to believe than not to believe. If you feel you can’t believe, you must at least do this: keep an open mind. Keep it open toward faith, keep wanting it, keep asking for it, and leave the rest to God.”

*Flannery O’ Connor*

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 *Gigue* Wagner

Introit: Hymn 395 "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" LIEBSTER JESU

\* Call to Worship Micah 6:6,8

Leader: With what shall I come before the Lord,  
 and bow myself before God on high?

**People: He has told you, O mortal, what is good.**

Leader: And what does the Lord require of you?

**People: To do justice, and to love kindness,  
 and to walk humbly with our God.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 308 "O God in Whom All Life Begins" NOEL

\* Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God,  
 we admit that we have sinned against you  
 by wandering from your path.**

**Far too often, we have chosen our own path:  
 we searched for happiness in a larger home,  
 we searched for worthiness in the values of the world,  
 and we searched for meaning by looking within ourselves.**

**Yet you have asked us to look outside ourselves,  
 to live and love like Christ, which we have failed to do.**

**So forgive us, O Lord,  
 and return us to the path of joyful obedience once again.**

**Let serving our neighbors be our first thought each day,  
 and let carrying another’s cross  
 be the measure of all our days.**

**We ask it in the name of the One who carried a cross for us,  
 Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Epistle Lesson, *Galatians 5:22-26* p. 948

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 8:31-37* p. 820

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Good Life"

Responding to **God’s Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith *The Confession of 1967*

**Wise and virtuous people through the ages have sought the  
 highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth,  
 and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of  
 God’s love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by  
 self-interest and hostility.**

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life  
 of humankind. His cross and resurrection become a personal  
 crisis and present hope for all people when the gospel is  
 proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings  
 God’s forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith,  
 repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.**

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 *Fruit of the Spirit* Choplin

\* Doxology #606 OLD HUNDREDTH  
**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 718 "Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said" BOURBON

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction Response Hymn 539 WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY  
 "We Will Go Out with Joy"

\* Postlude *Procession II* Ore

*\*All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preacher*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Gaye Sprague, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

The Sanctuary Choir

Jeff Reynolds, *head usher*

Susan Grier, Carroll Farmer, Amy Hawkins, Anne Howson, George McLarty, *greeters*

Nora Blouin, Mary Eliza Duncan, *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. 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.

**With Thanksgiving We Celebrate**

**BIRTH**

The birth of a daughter, *Rollins Elizabeth Dixon*, to Julia & Keri Dixon on Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

**BIRTH**

The birth of a son, *Henry David Randolph*, to Chase & Paige Randolph on Friday, August 25, 2023.

**MARRIAGE**

On Saturday, September 2, 2023, *Laura Bloodworth* and *Tom Waghorne* were united in marriage at Westminster.

**In Memoriam**

Paul E. Waters  
 (7/9/1929 – 9/2/2023)

*"I am the resurrection and the life."  
 – John 11:25*

**BAPTISM CLASS**

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for this Sunday, September 10, 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.

**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 24. Those who attend the class and join WPC are invited to be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

**Opportunities @WPC**

**THEOLOGY READING GROUP**

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, September 18, at 7p in the Charter Room. D'Etta Leach will lead the discussion of *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

**BASKETBALL**

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 1. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

**CHANCEL CHOIR RETURNS**

The Chancel Choir is an opportunity to sing choral music in the church, with less commitment than the Sanctuary Choir. The Chancel Choir will rehearse on Tuesdays, September 19 and 26 from 7-7:45p in the Choir Room, and sing at the 9a worship service on Sunday, October 1 (World Communion Sunday). No audition or experience is necessary. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

**WESTCONNECT**

You're encouraged to participate in WestConnect, a ministry of small groups that share life, pray, and study together. The next six-week season launches in October and will focus on the Apostles' Creed. Groups meet throughout the week. Complete the interest form on WPC's website or in the Ritual of Friendship to get involved.

**INTERFAITH SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY G.O.A.L.**

Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership had an extraordinarily successful first year! Owing to the passionate work of twenty local congregations, we brought over 1500 people to the Nehemiah Action in March, where our state and local leaders were asked to allocate significant funding toward 1) the 988 Suicide Hotline, and 2) affordable housing. As we start our second year, we invite you to join us. We will be holding House Meetings over the next few weeks (9/14 at 10a; 9/17 at 9a; 9/26 at 7p) to hear what concerns you have. Watch the Harbinger for additional meeting date(s). For GOAL related questions, contact juliabell@gmail.com.

**CAROLINA HIGH FOOD DRIVE**

This September, consider donating to the Carolina High Food Drive! Carolina High offers critical food assistance to many of their students. They have a significant shortage of the following items: breakfast bars, cereal, peanut butter, canned meat, bags of dried rice, bags of dried beans, mashed potatoes, meal helpers (hamburger helper, etc.), powdered milk, and canned fruit. We will have a collections table at the kick-off breakfast this Sunday, September 10. You may also bring donations during the month to the collection bin located in the Friendship Court.

**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES**

Tuesday, September 12

- **Circle 3**, at the home of Barbara Wallace (220 Shannon Lake Cir, 29615) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, September 13

- **Circle 6**, at the home of Liz Einstein at 9a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

**CREATION STEWARDSHIP**

Join members of WPC's Creation Stewardship as they participate in the Friends of the Reedy River clean-up event on Saturday, September 16, from 9-11:30a. Check the weekly newsletter for a sign-up link or contact Nikki Grumbine (grumbine5@gmail.com) for more details.

**HIKING GROUP**

This season's first hike will be to the Bracken Reserve outside of Brevard, NC, on Thursday, September 21. Following the hike, plan to have lunch at the Square Root restaurant in downtown Brevard. Meet at the trailhead at 10:30a and have lunch around 2p. Contact hike leader, Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com) if you have questions.

**MEN OF WESTMINSTER**

Men of Westminster will have their back-from-summer social at Southernside Brewery (25 Delano Dr, Unit D) on September 26 at 5:30p. Come join the men of the church for fun and fellowship. Please reach out to Clay Smoak (gcsmoak3@gmail.com) with any questions.

**THE HARBINGER**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
(864) 232-2424  
[www.wpc-online.org](#)

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**September 10-17, 2023**

**Sunday, September 10**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:00a Kick-Off Breakfast & Connection Fair
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Congregational Meeting
- 4:30 Baptism Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group Middler Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, September 11**

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

**Tuesday, September 12**

- 12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting
- Al-Anon
- 2:00 Circle 3

**Wednesday, September 13**

- 9:00a Circle 6
- 2:30p It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 14**

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
- 5:00 Health & Safety Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

**Sunday, September 17**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

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

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**From the Pews, Parks Workman**

“Five Ways to Fit More Christ in Your Life.” This sounds like the title of a well-intentioned self-help program. We can learn how fitting Jesus into our lives leads to peace and prosperity. As well-intentioned as this may seem, fitting Jesus into our lives is not God’s path.

In Mark Chapter 8, Peter finally sees Jesus as the Messiah. Just a verse or two later, Peter is being admonished as Satan. What caused such a turn? Peter’s desire to control and to fit Jesus into his agenda.

I have shared Peter’s struggle. The allure of control and the belief I can manipulate situations to my advantage is undeniable. If I can work hard enough, be smart enough, stockpile enough resources, I can make things go my way. Like Peter, I too am guilty of trying to fit Jesus into where I think He fits best in my life. It can be far too easy to ignore the pull of Jesus because I am too busy or because it is not the right time or because it seems too difficult.

Mark Chapter 8 provides a not-so-subtle reminder of the dangers of human control. Consider all the chaos and evil resulting from humans deciding right and wrong. Peter’s actions in trying to fit Jesus into his agenda were in fact a thing of Satan. Mark Chapter 8 reminds us the human mind is ill-equipped for such decisions.

Jesus’s wisdom shines through His counsel: “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it . . .” How many times have we clung to control, only to feel life slipping from our grasp? God gifts us with peace when we release control and listen to Jesus. I acknowledge this is easier said than done. Where is the line between our control and “letting Jesus take the wheel?” I do not have a good answer. However, Jesus might. Find ways Jesus is speaking to you – and listen.

“Five Ways to Hear and Listen to Jesus.” I submit this is a much more fitting program. It could involve prayer, meditation, guidance from spiritual leaders, Bible study, etc. However, know and take comfort that this is no self-help program. It is a God-help program. When the disciples question who can be saved, Jesus reminded them “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

welcome back!

Join WPC in Sunday School starting this Sunday, September 10 at 10a.

On September 17, we'll 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**

Middlers (Youth Suite) - Feasting on the Word  
Senior Highs (300 Hall) - WestConnect

**Adult Sunday School (September 10–October 15)**

***We Believe What? Exploring the Apostles Creed***

led by Leigh Stuckey

Leigh is Executive Associate Pastor for Faith Formation. She's been a pastor at Westminster for 10 years. She often teaches during the Sunday School year.

Room 209

The Creed has been a standard of orthodoxy for generations, but what is it actually talking about? Are we all Catholic? And what's this about the bodily resurrection? How can we understand God as "Almighty" with all the chaos in our world? And what is the purpose of a creed anyway?! Join Leigh Stuckey for this lecture-style class that will explore the creation and content of the Apostles' Creed. "We Believe What?" will run for six weeks in September and early October.

***Vocabulary and Values in Parenting***

led by Mary Kathleen Duncan and Lauren Slingerland

Mary Kathleen and Lauren have been collaborating since they attended Columbia Seminary together in 2008. Mary Kathleen is the Associate Pastor for Youth and Lauren is the Associate Pastor for Children. They have unique insight into the needs of families and how faith can be a support in all stages of parenting.

Room 212

During this six week period we will explore, through the lens of scripture, how we can cultivate vocabulary and live into our values as we nurture the children in our lives. We hope you will leave this class with a more robust faith vocabulary and some clarifying values both for everyday decision-making and when big questions pop up.

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**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

The Session has called a congregational meeting for this Sunday, September 10, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on three motions from the Session:

- a) That the congregation elect the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to search for an Associate Pastor for Outreach and Congregational Life. The proposed slate for the APNC is the following: Coleman Dixon, Pam Evans, Roger Gower, Brad Hawkins, Steve Johnson, Leigh Miller, Frances Roe, Corey Sanders, and Sallie White;
- b) That the congregation add two youth elder positions to the Session, each serving a two-year term, with the first youth elder position starting in 2024, and the second youth elder position starting in 2025;
- c) To elect the 2023-24 Nominating Committee (which is responsible for nominating the next class of Elders for the Session). The nominees for the 2023-24 Nominating Committee are Neil Shurley (chair), Ingrid Erwin, Ginny Reed, Susan Robbins, Brandon Coker, Phillip Cox, Jill Fairey, Tricia Pendergrass, and Clay Smoak.

**Our Vision:**

***Open Minds Open Hearts***

**Our Pillars:**

*Hospitality  
Generosity  
Justice  
Imagination  
Joy*

**Our Goals:**

*Connect  
Serve  
Grow*

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