



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

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.**

Minute for Stewardship Jordan Smith
Prelude *How Great Thou Art* arr. Monsell
Introit "Be Still and Know" Iona Community

Please sing as invited - first in unison, then in canon.



* Call to Worship Psalm 46

Leader: God is our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in trouble.
People: **Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change.**
Leader: Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
People: **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 307 "God of Grace and God of Glory" CWM RHONDDA

* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,
in your holy presence we confess our sin
and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to do the good
that you have given us to do.
Grant us courage to face our fears,
compassion to offer our neighbors,
and hope to share with your world.
In Christ's name 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

**Gloria 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

*Kendall Robin Brackett
Riley Patricia Brackett*

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders 11:15a

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination
Epistle Lesson, *Romans 12:14-21* p. 923
Gospel Lesson, *Luke 4:16-30* p. 835

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Today"

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.**

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 9a "Dona nobis pacem" (Grant Us Peace) Traditional
Offertory 11:15a *Lamb of God, Grant Us Peace* Stroope
* Doxology #606 OLD HUNDREDDTH

**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 757 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" KINGSFOLD
* Charge and Benediction
* Benediction Response 11:15a Hymn 558 "Amen" ROBERTS
Please join in singing the Benediction Response.
* Postlude *Toccata in Seven* Rutter
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*
Amanda Warren (11:15a), *sponsor*
Jason Farmer (9a), Ella Casto-Waters (11:15a), *scripture readers*
Todd Monsell, *organ/piano*
Mac Gilliland (9a), *guitar*
Jackson Collins, Marlon Hurst, Wyatt Pittman - Trio (9a)
The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)
Paul Grier (9a), Bryan Kelley (11:15a), *head ushers*
Jara Jones, Betsy Raines, Carroll Farmer,
Susan Grier, Roger Gower (9a), *greeters*
George McLarty, Emily Cole, Ingrid Erwin,
Zach Weaver, Lesley Usher (11:15a), *greeters*
Mary Alice Price, Quinn Ray (9a), Ella Huffman (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. 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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Kendall Robin Brackett* and *Riley Patricia Brackett*, daughters of Lee & Tiffany Brackett.

This Sunday, October 22, children in third grade will celebrate a faith milestone as they receive a new Bible during 11:15a worship. Third graders are invited to attend a Bible Workshop during the Sunday School hour to learn the features of their new Bible and age-appropriate tools for Bible study and discipleship. Please join us to celebrate these disciples and pray for their continued growth in faith. Contact Lauren Slingerland for more information.

Our scripture reader at the 11:15a service today is Ella Casto-Waters. A child of the upstate, Ella is a junior at Presbyterian College and serving as our Ministry Intern this school year. She works with both Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry and is around WPC on Wednesdays and Sundays.

2023 GIVING:

At the end of September, we were ¾ of the way through the year, and had received 60% of anticipated pledge income. Please check your quarterly giving statement to see where you stand with your 2023 giving. Thank you for your generosity with Westminster!

Opportunities @WPC

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Men of Westminster's October Social is Tuesday, October 24, at 5:30p at the Blockhouse Restaurant (1619 Augusta St.). Come join the men of the church for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

Save the date:

Men of Westminster
Spring Retreat
April 26-28, 2024
Montreat Conference Center

TRICK OR TREAT

On Wednesday, October 25, our children will bring joy to residents at the Terra Bella Retirement Home as they go trick-or-treating in their Halloween costumes. Arrive at the church at 5:30p to walk over together to trick or treat with residents. We'll return to the Fellowship Hall for pizza dinner afterwards! There is no cost, but we ask that you please sign up on the church website under the event registration so that we know how much pizza to buy. Contact Associate Pastor Lauren Slingerland (lslingerland@wpc-online.org) for more information.

HIKING GROUP

The next hike for the Hiking Group will be on Saturday, October 28, to Whitewater Falls. This is a 4-mile loop trail that begins and ends at the Whitewater Falls parking lot, partially on the Foothills Trail. Bob Vannoy will lead this hike. If you are interested, contact Bob in advance at bobvannoy47@gmail.com.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties and sixties, will meet Saturday, October 28, at 6:30p at the home Jeff & Nancy Giguere (121 Rhett Street #703) in downtown Greenville. Watch emails for more information or check the church's website ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will sing next at the 9a worship service on Sunday, November 12. To prepare for worship leadership, they will rehearse on Tuesdays October 24 and November 7 from 7-7:45p in the Choir Room. The Chancel Choir exists to provide choral singing opportunities for those who enjoy singing but who desire to participate in an ensemble that requires less of a time commitment than the Sanctuary Choir. Participation is open to all. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

INSTRUMENTAL/HANDBELL SURVEY

Are you an instrumentalist? Would you like to share your gifts in worship? Are you interested in ringing handbells? If so, please visit the WPC website to complete a survey. This will help us learn the answers to these questions - and more! The survey will remain open through mid-November. Depending upon the responses, opportunities for sharing your gifts will develop in 2024.

Introit, "Be Still and Know"
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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.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
October 22 - 29, 2023

Sunday, October 22

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
- WestConnect - Leigh Miller
- WestConnect - George Howell
- Third Grade Bible Workshop
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
- 3:00 APNC Meeting
- 4:30 First Steps Music Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- WestConnect - Heather Dorr
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, October 23

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, October 24

- 12:00p Al-Anon
- 5:30 Men of Westminster Social
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 25

- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:15 Middlers Open Gym
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 5:30 Trick or Treat Event
- 6:00 WestConnect - Ingrid Erwin
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 26

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, October 28

- 8:00a Hiking Group
- 6:30p Lightly Seasoned

Sunday, October 29

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Library Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
- WestConnect - Leigh Miller
- WestConnect - George Howell
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 4:30 First Steps Music Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- WestConnect - Heather Dorr
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the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | October 22, 2023 | No. 26

From the Pews, Susan McLeod

*Live in harmony with one another.
Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
Do not be conceited.*

Romans 12: 16

These words, part of this week's Lectionary scripture, have always resonated with me. My parents reflected their generation's disdain for self-promotion and would be increasingly horrified at the daily current displays to which we treat ourselves. Continually comparing oneself in every regard to others is our national pastime. Bloated opinions from players who have no more understanding of a subject than an average person are elevated and requoted as if they were Simeon Stylites. That the noise is loud and constant cannot be argued.

Toning down the competitiveness and clearing a path is one of the reasons I depend on Westminster. Ben's sermons seem to be written just for me almost every week. I am inspired by clergy and staff who inform and encourage us to join worthwhile activities that would perhaps be tough to navigate on our own. I am humbled by so many admirable people who turn their distress and conviction into infectious action, helping move the needle on an issue instead of simply whining or becoming fearful and isolated. Being nourished by my wonderful WPC community, I am better able to appreciate how brave, creative, resilient, and tenaciously faithful people can be, no matter how stable their housing or marriage or career or mental health.

I could not do this on my own; concentrating primarily on myself comes too easily. I freely admit I do not understand how folks can reject the comfort and agitation that church going provides. However, the guidance and structure Westminster offers to our lives has to be funded so that our families and larger communities can benefit. This is a sacred obligation.

ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We at Westminster believe that education is essential for discipleship and hope that what you learn in this place will transform your living beyond our doors. This quarter kicks off this Sunday, October 22, and will run each Sunday through November 26. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

**1. Faith & Medical Ethics
(meeting this Sunday, October 22 – November 26)**

Teachers: Scott & Denise Broderick with Trey & Kimmie DuBose, Rob Morgan, and Ben Alexander, Jim & Betsy Bloodworth

Room 209

From the earliest beginnings of the Christian faith, its members have been devoted to helping others. After a brief review of the interwoven history of Christianity and medicine in general, the focus of this class will be on the current interaction between the Christian faith and the complexities of the modern medical world. Topics will be presented by a variety of congregational members involved in the medical field and will include mission work, challenging patients and diagnoses, medical malpractice, and medical finances.

**2. Short Stories; Big Impact
(meeting Sunday, October 29 – November 26)****

Teacher: Leigh Stuckey

Room 212

Jesus’ most evocative and visceral stories often come in the form of parables – and are as often misunderstood as they are repeated. A skilled teacher, Jesus used images that would be familiar to hearers in first century Palestine as a way to evoke curiosity about the character of God’s kingdom. But life in the first century middle east and life in Greenville today are rather different. How can we understand these stories, and how can they provoke us to deeper seeking?

****PLEASE NOTE that Leigh's class will not meet this Sunday, October 22. We ask all adults to gather for the FAITH & MEDICAL ETHICS class.**

YOUTH EDUCATION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Senior High West Connect

This group meets three more times this semester (October 22, 29, and November 5). If you haven’t yet participated, you’re more than welcome to jump in for these last three sessions. Another Sr. High West Connect group will meet this spring.

Middler Sunday School

All Middlers are invited to meet with the Doctors each Sunday morning in the Youth Suite during the Sunday School hour. During this time, youth will share prayer concerns, preview/review worship, and build community through a variety of activities.

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PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO THIRD GRADERS

Leader: What is the church?

All: We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, who share in the Lord’s Supper. Through grace, the Spirit renews us so we may serve God in love.

Leader: How do we know this good news?

All: Through reading the Bible and hearing it taught and preached. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and helps us rely on its promises today.

CHILDREN’S PRAYER

Dear God, as we read and study our Bibles, by your Spirit help us to learn about your love for us in Jesus Christ. Help us to learn how to follow you. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Holy God, when these children were baptized, we promised to guide and nurture them by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church. We pledge ourselves anew to this promise. Amen.

NOVEMBER NIGHTS

NOVEMBER 5 AND 12, 2023

Join your church family the first two Sunday evenings in November for November Nights. We will begin in the Sanctuary at 5p for a brief Vespers service. Dinner, catered by Sunflower Eatery, will begin at 5:20p. On November 5, you will have the opportunity to participate in Rise Against Hunger, an intergenerational mealpacking event. Over the course of an hour and a half, we will pack over 10K meals that will provide essential nutrients to individuals in developing nations. Rise begins in the gym at 6p. On November 12, we will be joined by Mill Village Ministries to learn more about hunger in our own communities. As with Rise, the Mill Village opportunity will begin at 6p.

SIGN UP FOR EACH SUNDAY’S DINNER ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE.

- Deadline for the November 5 taco bar is Wednesday, November 1.
- Deadline for the November 12 dinner (salad and lasagna) is Wednesday, November 8.

Nursery is available for K4 and younger. All children and youth are encouraged to participate in Rise Against Hunger and the educational hour led by Mill Village.

WPCYG

DURING NOVEMBER NIGHTS

The Youth Groups will continue to meet on November Nights, but follow the November Nights schedule. All youth are invited to join the Westminster church family for vespers at 5p in the sanctuary, dinner at 5:30p in the fellowship hall and programming from 6-7p. On Sunday, November 5, we will join in the meal packing event with Rise Against Hunger. On Sunday, November 12, we will join the panel discussion with Mill Village Ministries and then split into a youth only discussion led by Jessica Brown, Mill Village Ministries’ Youth Program Director.

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