

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 12, 2023 |On Demand on Facebook & YouTube|9a & 11:15a



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Gratitude flows from the recognition that who we are and what we have are gifts to be received and shared. Gratitude releases us from the bonds of obligation and prepares us to offer ourselves freely and fully for the work of the Kingdom.

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.**

Minute for Stewardship

Stan Pendergrass

Prelude "Variations" from *Organ Concerto, Op. 4* Handel

Introit 11:15a *The Wise May Bring Their Learning* Mclver

Texts for all choral music may be found online by using the QR code found in the announcements.

* Call to Worship Psalm 105

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

People: **Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.**

Leader: Seek the Lord and God's strength; seek God's presence continually.

People: **God is mindful of God's covenant forever.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 691 "Lord, When I Came into This Life" LAND OF REST

* Prayer of Confession

Eternal God,
you are the One in whom we live and move
and have our being.

And yet we deceive ourselves,
forgetting the call and claim you have placed on our lives.
We have been too cautious with the good news of the gospel.

Our faith has been fearful, our hope has been half-hearted,
and our love has been limited by selfishness and greed.

Forgive us, Holy One.

Give us the courage to change
into the people you have created us to be.

Let our hospitality extend to anyone,
let our generosity grow each day,
and renew within us the commitment
to follow Christ wherever he leads us,
for it is in his name that 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

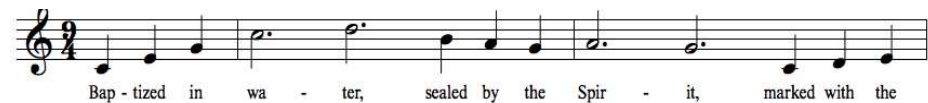
Gloria be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Anthem 11:15a *What Then, Will God Do with Me* Atteberry

The Sacrament of Baptism 9a *Conrad Welch Wrenn and Sullivan Peter Wrenn*
11:15a *Wesley Ellen Faulk*

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

Epistle Lesson, *Ephesians 3:18-21*

p. 950

New Testament Lesson, *Acts 4:32-37*

p. 888

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Commitment Sunday Every Sunday"

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) Psalm 96: *Sing a New Song* Bell

Offertory (11:15a) "Who Is the One We Love the Most?" Schalk

* 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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Hymn 716 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" BEACH SPRING

During the hymn you are invited to bring your pledge card forward.
Please come to the chancel by way of the center aisle
and return to your pew from the side aisles.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Rejoice in the Lord* Mansfield

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Amy Hawkins (9a), Ginny Reed (11:15a), *sponsors*

David Golladay (9a), Mary Ashmore (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Chancel Choir (9a)

Junior/Senior Choristers (11:15a), Kathryn Knauer/Hunter Smith, *conductors;*

Martha Gower, *accompanist*

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Anne Howson, George McLarty, Emily Cole,

Betsy Raines, Roger Gower (9a), *greeters*

Walker Miller, Stan Pendergrass, Ingrid Erwin,

Jeff Reynolds, Susan Robbins (11:15a), *greeters*

Lilly McTyre, Mary Wayne Workman (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 *Conrad Welch Wrenn* and *Sullivan Peter Wrenn*, twin sons of Frank & Jenny Wrenn.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Wesley Ellen Faulk*, daughter of Daniel & Rebecca Faulk.

We Remember in Prayer

Shannon Paradise on the death of her father, Steve Reynolds, on Friday, November 3, 2023 in Greenville.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Susanna Mayer Hyman*, to Ted & McKinley Hyman on Friday, November 3, 2023.

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, November 19. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and 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

INSTRUMENTAL/HANDBELL SURVEY

Are you an instrumentalist? Would you be interested in ensemble opportunities 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.

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet again on Friday, November 17, to hike to Lower Whitewater Falls. Contact Hike Leader: Anne Holleman (holl2759@att.net) if interested.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, November 20, at 7p in the Charter Room. Ann Hicks will share with us a portion of her *Memoir*, a portion in which prayer is significant. The discussion will then focus on prayer, faith, good luck. All are welcome.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

Join the Men of Westminster on Tuesday, December 5, at 5:30p for Christmas Cocktails at Southernside Brewing (25 Delano Dr., Unit D). Join the men of the church for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Now more than ever is the time to support our church home. The Session has set a pledge goal for 2024 that is \$275,000 more than what we received in pledges in 2023. There are so many reasons to stretch your gift and “go beyond” for Westminster this year! We are in the midst of a search for a new Associate Pastor for Outreach and Congregational Life. Our children’s ministries and our youth ministries are thriving. Our choir is running out of space in the choir loft. Our new WestConnect ministry is expanding. And we continue to reach out to our community through acts of service, hospitality, and generosity on a weekly basis. When you pledge to Westminster, your contributions fight food insecurity, assist children in the foster care system, and help build Habitat homes. Please consider how you can go “beyond” in your giving for 2024, and bring your pledge this Sunday!

If you are unable to be here...

- send your pledge card directly to the church office
- make a pledge via our church website, at wpc-online.org/give
- send an email to lbennett@wpc-online.org, and Lynn Bennett, our Financial Manager, will be happy to record your commitment.

2023 GIVING

At the end of October, we were 83% through the year and had received 67% of our anticipated pledge income. If you are uncertain where you stand with your current pledge, please check with our Financial Manager, Lynn Bennett, in the church office. Thank you for your generosity to Westminster!

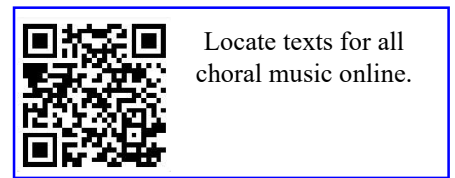
WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 14

- Circle 3, at the home of Ruth Collins (103 Haddon Ln, Greer) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).
- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Chair: Josie Williams (jgwilliams1803@gmail.com)

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, November 15, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (Imaryanncox@gmail.com).



ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL ON 11/26

Join WPC families for Sunday School for all ages in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour on 11/26! Led by Lauren Slingerland, this will be a great way to get to know other folks here at WPC. Note that we will not have WPC Kids and WPCYG Sunday School on the 26th.

THE HARBINGER
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
November 12 - 19, 2023**

**Sunday, November 12
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

- Stewardship Commitment Sunday*
- 9:00a Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
 - 10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
 - 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 - 11:15 Worship Service
 - 4:30p First Steps Music Class
Baptism Class
 - 5:00 Vespers Service
 - 5:20 November Nights Dinner
 - 6:00 Mill Village Ministries

**Monday, November 13
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous**

**Tuesday, November 14
12:00p AI-Anon
2:00 Circle 3 Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 15
12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
2:15 It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, November 16
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous**

**Sunday, November 19
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
- 10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p New Member Reception
- 12:30 Stated Session Meeting
Choir Rehearsal
- 3:00 Young Adults Oyster Roast
- 4:30 First Steps Music Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 WestConnect - Heather Dorr
Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, George McLarty

During our Stewardship Campaign this year, I have been asked to share why giving is important to our family and to reflect on the impact of Westminster in our lives. We have continued to give to Westminster for many reasons, but most of all we receive a fulfillment that lifts us as a family. Giving to our church results in a mental boost to us, improves our overall outlook on life, and helps keep our financial compass on course.

Each day we all must make decisions about how we use our money and sometimes those can be difficult. Everyone’s financial situation is distinct, and yet this is always a touchy subject that some prefer to avert all together. Our daily financial choices should be founded by our priorities, and these should guide us through these decisions.

We have found it reassuring to make the conscious decision and place charitable giving as a top priority in our family. It is gratifying to know you are doing the charitable giving first and placing the importance of those needs above your personal choices. This giving first attitude makes our pledge to the church a known commitment. This also gives us the autonomy to enjoy an occasional splurge with the reassurance we have already covered these greater priority items.

We also observe the impact of the collective gifts to WPC at work firsthand. They fund a vibrant church where we enjoy worshiping with our church family and support a mission-oriented church. We know that our pledge helps to support the annual budget, but everyone’s pledge is necessary for this effort to continue. Westminster is a growing church, and we are proud of our ability to be an outlier when other congregations are struggling with shrinking congregations. Our giving must go beyond our previous levels as the reach and membership of the church expand. Without sufficient pledges to support our growth, we will be faced with difficult financial decisions. Our church committees would be instructed to reduce spending across all areas and result in reductions to mission partner funding, staff budgets, worship, youth programs, mission trips, music, and facility maintenance. Cuts to our programs are not the message our congregation wants to hear, and it is our obligation to support the church’s growing needs.

Let us make our Westminster pledge a top priority by utilizing a giving first attitude this year as we stretch to go beyond our historical reach.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**NOVEMBER NIGHTS
NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

Join your church family this Sunday evening for the final 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. We will be joined by Mill Village Ministries at 6p to learn more about hunger in our own communities. Deadline for November 12th's dinner (salad and lasagna) is Wednesday, November 8.

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

**WPCYG
DURING NOVEMBER NIGHTS**

The Youth Groups will continue to meet, but will 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. This 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.



As he lay swaddled in the manger, Jesus received three gifts from the wise men. To mark the surprise, delight, and joy of that morning two millennia ago, it has been the practice of Christians to exchange gifts with one another on Christmas morning, a tradition that connects us to our past and to generations and communities who have gone ahead of us.

This year, Westminster is proud to sponsor the first ever Pleasant Valley Magi Market. Members of Westminster are asked to help provide gifts for families at the Pleasant Valley Connection. Children from each family will receive three gifts from lists (one small, one medium, one large). We will also need volunteers to help set up the store, provide hospitality as families shop for gifts, and break down after all the shopping has ended. Find out more about the Market here or contact Carrie Marguet (carriemarguet@gmail.com).

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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