

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 26, 2023 |On Demand on Facebook & YouTube|9a & 11:15a



Christ the King Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

O Father, be near, thy guiding to steer, thy compassing here,
 thy love to endear, when dangers appear.
 O Christ, whom we see outstretched on the tree,
 o save and set free from sins wounding thee, compassionate be.
 O Spirit so wise, thy blessing arise that safely supplies,
 a shield to our eyes, when horrors surprise.
 God, we are thy sheep, thy rod the safe-keep, if up the heart leap,
 if sorrowed we weep, awake or asleep.

From Prayers of the Western Highlanders by G.R.D. McLean

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 *La Rejouissance* Handel

Introit 11:15a Hymn 709, "God, We Honor You" ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

Please remain seated and join in singing once in unison and once in canon, as invited.

* Call to Worship Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
People: **Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**
Leader: Know that the Lord is God.
People: **It is God that made us, and we are his; we are God's people, and the sheep of his pasture.**
Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
People: **Give thanks to God, bless his name.**
Leader: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 385 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" OLD HUNDRETH

* Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm.
You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead.
You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others.
Forgive us, merciful God, and draw us near so that we may rejoice in your presence.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, the lamb upon the throne. 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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism 9a *Mary Jane Lisle*
 11:15a *Thatcher Worth Hutcheson*

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN

Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Lesson, *Philippians 4:4-9* p. 955

Old Testament Lesson, *2 Kings 22:1-11* p. 310

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Draw Near"

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 *Air* Bach

Offertory 11:15a *Thy Kingdom Come* Marroli

Text for all vocal music may be found by following the link in the QR code in the announcements.

* 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 274 "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" PICARDY

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response 11:15a THANKFUL HEARTS
 Hymn 648 "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"

* Postlude *Postlude on "Christ the King"* Callahan

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Nikki Grumbine (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *sponsors*

Allen Grumbine (9a), Talitha Allen (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Joanna Mulfinger, *violin*

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Lesley Usher, Jeff Reynolds, Jordan Smith,

Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman (9a), *greeters*

Marian Carpenter, Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer,

Betsy Raines, Susan Grier (11:15a), *greeters*

Sawyer Rentz (9a), Nora Blouin, Ella Heegard (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.

In Memoriam

Nancy Quinn
 6/8/1952 - 11/16/2023)

Lynelle Sik
 (5/23/1968 - 11/19/2023)

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

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Mary Jane Lisle*, daughter of Grant & Polly Lisle.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Thatcher Worth Hutcheson*, son of Alex & Sarah Hutcheson.

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.

THORNWELL OFFERING

Thornwell, a residential home and foster program located in Clinton, SC, provides a place for children who need a stable home life, a solid education, and spiritual nurturing. As members of Westminster, we have an opportunity to share in meeting this need. Please make checks payable to Westminster and designate for Thornwell.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Opportunities @WPC

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet again on Saturday, December 2, to hike in Parkis Mountain State Park. Contact Hike Leader: Kathryn Algary (kaalgary@gmail.com) if interested.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a luncheon group for couples and singles, will meet at Bonefish Grill (1515 Woodruff Rd) on Sunday, December 3, at 12:45p. RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, December 1. Newcomers 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).

WESTFEST XI:

Mark your calendars for December 3 (5-7p) - it's WestFestXI, our annual celebration of Advent featuring Trey Duncan sings and food from Local Pie and the Spinx Cluk Truk.

ADVENT GIFT MARKET

Prepare your mind and heart for the coming of the Christ child while exploring Christmas traditions and fair trade gifts in the Christmas Gift Market. On December 3, 10, 17, and 24, there will be a small-scale gift market in the Sanctuary Atrium following worship.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, November 20, we have received \$2,079,311 in pledges toward our 2024 pledge goal of \$2,688,000. For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Manager, Lynn Bennett, at lbennett@wpc-online.org.

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!

RETIREMENT GIVING

Make Qualified Distributions from your IRAs: Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting WPC's local and global ministries. Contact the church office for more information.

New Members@WPC

We welcomed the following new members into our fellowship on November 19, 2023:

- Scott & Jordan Cheney by reaffirmation of faith. They have a daughter, Audrey (3) and a son, Charlie (1).
- Priscilla Hagins by transfer from Buncombe Street Methodist, Greenville.
- Bill & Linda Hines by transfer from Buncombe Street Methodist, Greenville.
- Bryan & Anna Kingrey by transfer from Westminster Presbyterian, Charleston, SC They have one daughter, Poppy (2).
- Michael & Stacy Martin by reaffirmation of faith. They have two daughters, Marlee (5) and Sunny (1).
- Caroline McKinney by transfer from Edenton Street Methodist, Raleigh, NC. Caroline and her husband, William, have three children, Henry (10), Margaret (7), and Liz (4).
- Emory & Bonnie McTyre by reaffirmation of faith. They have four daughters, Lily (10), Brynn (7), Emmy (4), and Claire (4 mos.).
- Ryan Murphy by reaffirmation of faith. Ryan and his wife, WPC member, Melissa, have two sons, Chandler (8) and Patrick (6).
- Meg Patel joined by reaffirmation of faith. Meg and her husband, Rit Patel, have one son, Bodhi (5 mos).
- Deb Wiswell joined by transfer from First Presbyterian of Naples, FL.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [wpcgreenville](#) | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

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Church Staff

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Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org



Locate texts for all choral music online.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS November 26 - December 3, 2023

Sunday, November 26
Christ the King Sunday
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 One 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
5:00 Middler Youth Group/Snack
5:45 Combined Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00 WestConnect - Heather Dorr
6:15 Senior High Youth Group/dinner

Monday, November 27
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, November 28
12:00p Al-Anon
5:30 Men of Westminster Board Meeting and decorating of Sanctuary Atrium tree
6:00 Lightly Seasoned to decorate Entrance Pavilion tree

Wednesday, November 29
10:15a Weekday School Chapel
2:15p It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:15 Middlers Open Gym
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
6:00 Women of Westminster to decorate Sanctuary trees
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 30
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 2
8:30a Hiking Group

Sunday, December 3
First Sunday of Advent
9:00a Worship Service w/communion
10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service w/communion
12:45p Connections Group
4:30 First Steps Music Class
5:00 WestFestXI

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, November 29
Sanctuary Tree Decorating 6p

Sunday, December 10
Advent Luncheon at 12:30p

February 23-25, 2024
Women's Retreat at Montreat
Conference Center

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | November 26, 2023 | No. 31

From the Pews, Scott & Susan Clark

Philippians 4:4-7 reads –

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ."

This verse has been underlined in our Bible for a long time though the memory of its marking is lost. Was this a verse that was important during our first year of marriage? Was this a verse that spoke during trying times as new parent of an infant daughter or an elementary school-aged son or during a time of professional uncertainty? Suffice to say, this has been a meaningful verse to our family and continues to be as we move from one stage of life to the next.

All that said, the gentleness that the verse speaks of is not a characteristic you would use to describe the Clarks. Depending on the setting or the season of life, you would cycle through a number of other descriptive adjectives before finally arriving at gentleness. Although, it's fair to say in certain settings or seasons, it might be justified to call us compassionate or kind or even faithful. But you would just as likely throw in selfish, impatient and anxious along the way. Despite having been surrounded by role models of gentleness, it is something that the Clarks continue to strive to exhibit.

Bill Nock, Susan's father, was one such model of gentleness in our lives. He was the spiritual leader of the family and continued in that role throughout his life. If you went looking for adjectives to describe him you would list gentle, but then also quickly arrive at kind, compassionate, quiet, strong and faithful. He was content in the confidence that his faith provided him and the light he showed to the world made it a better place.

A quick anecdote about Bill – While raising his young family, Saturday meant he would be playing golf in the morning. Following his golf game, he would invariably retrieve his wicker basket which contained the following – a black battery powered radio with an antenna, a yellow legal pad, and his Bible. He would then proceed to watch a football game on the television, listen to another football game on the radio, eat popcorn, have a dog at his side (also eating popcorn), all while working on his Sunday School lesson for the men's class at First Presbyterian Church of Sumter. His faith was a fixture in his life and it existed in every piece of it.

Bill was diagnosed with ALS several years back. The weight of his diagnosis and his acceptance of it did not change his gentleness or his strength - it only served to emphasize both. The anxiety that might naturally come from such a development could have been consuming, but it was not. His peaceful demeanor reflected his confidence in his faith. As the disease progressed, he continued to exhibit a model of gentleness to his family, friends and caregivers. This was a great gift that he gave to all who mourned his death last fall.

There is a great point to be made here about what we give to others. It could be something of material value, perhaps a lifetime of love and devotion, maybe a helping hand to someone trying to point there life in a new direction, or just a simple word of encouragement. Those are all nice things to give to another. Turns out, giving a living example of Godly qualities to the people in your life is quite nice too.



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*

PROJECT HOST

Please consider signing up to volunteer with other members of Westminster Presbyterian Church at Project Host throughout 2024. There is availability for five church members to prepare, serve, and clean up a meal twice monthly at Project Host. This is a meaningful way to serve the community while getting to know other church members. The shifts are from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm every other Tuesday. Please contact Susan Clark at susanhunterclark@gmail.com with any questions. Signups can be found on the church website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/>.



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Advent & Christmas at Westminster

December 3 *First Sunday of Advent*
 Advent Market opens in the Sanctuary Atrium
 (open every Sunday in Advent)
 WestFest XI (live music, food trucks)
 5-7p in the Green Lot

December 9 Magi Market at the Pleasant Valley Connection

December 10 *Second Sunday of Advent*
 Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon
 12:30p in the Fellowship Hall
 Cherub Choir Christmas
 4p in the Sanctuary

December 17 *Third Sunday of Advent*
 9a Worship in the Sanctuary
 Children's Musical
 11:15a in the Sanctuary

December 24 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
 The 63rd Annual Service of Lessons & Carols
 10a in the Sanctuary
 reception following service in Sanctuary Atrium
 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
 4p and 6p in the Sanctuary
 (overflow in the Sanctuary Atrium)

December 31 One Worship Service
 10a in the Sanctuary
 reception following service in Sanctuary Atrium

POINSETTIA/ENDOWMENT/HERITAGE LECTURE MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in three ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00 or you may give to either the Endowment or Heritage Lecture Funds. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. Orders must be placed by Sunday, December 17.

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$_____ Endowment:_____ Heritage Lecture: _____



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