



Baptism of the Lord

Preparation for **Worship**

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Buxtehude

Choral Introit 11:15a *Hymn 666, Stanza 1 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

* Call to Worship Psalm 27

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
 Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
 the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

People: May the Lord give strength and peace to God's people.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

* Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from one another.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome the stranger.
We allow the past to hold us captive.
In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.
Fulfill the promises of our baptism
so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.
Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

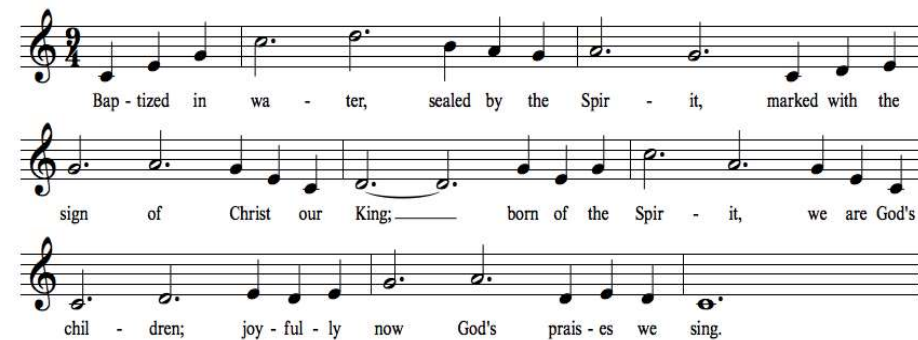
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism 11:15a Charles Henry Klett

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

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 61:1-4* p. 603

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 1:1-12* p. 812

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Have You Heard the News?"

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 *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Monsell
 Offertory 11:15a *"The Only Son from Heaven"* Bach
from Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe, BWV 22

* 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

* Hymn 378 "We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom" MERLE'S TUNE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Laudation* Martin
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Ginny Reed, *sponsor*

Jennifer McDavid (9a), Leigh Miller (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jacob Barker (9a), Bryan Kelley (11:15a), *head ushers*

Roger Gower, Amy Hawkins, Anne Howson,

Jacob Barker, Emily Cole (9a), *greeters*

Betsy Raines, Jeff Reynolds, Susan Robbins,

Zach Weaver, Walker Miller (11:15a), *greeters*

Quinn Ray (9a), Berkeley Blumer, Mary Eliza Duncan (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 Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caregiver 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 meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.



Locate texts for all choral music online.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

We welcome *Charles Henry Klett*, son of Jonathan & Lauren Klett in our worship service this morning.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Cason Louise Hanor*, to David & Anna Hanor on Friday, December 29, 2023.

We Remember in Prayer

Sara Vanderbloemen on the death of her father, John Dowd, on December 18, 2023, in Anderson.



HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, January 11, we will do an out and back hike on the Foothills Trail beside the Chattooga River from Burrell's Ford to Big Bend. We'll plan on doing a short detour to Kings Creek Falls on the way back. If you want to carpool, plan on leaving from the church at 8:30a. If you want to meet us at the Burrell's Ford parking lot, plan on being there by 10a. If you have any questions, contact Ted Sauvain (864-293-6309).

WPC BOOK CLUB AND THEOLOGY READING GROUP

On Monday, January 15, at 7p, the WPC Book Club and the Theology Reading Group will meet jointly in the Charter Room. Jean Weaver will lead the discussion of *The Covenant of Water*, a novel by Abraham Verghese. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are welcome.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, January 21, 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.

WPC YOUNG ADULTS

Join us Sunday, January 28, at Southernside Brewery (25 Delano Dr) for food and fellowship following the 11:15a service and congregational meeting. Kids are welcome! Questions? Email Elizabeth Timmons at LElizabethTimmons@gmail.com.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT - FEBRUARY 23 - 25, 2024

The Women of Westminster Retreat at Montreat Conference Center is a time to unwind, experience peace and relax. The immediate calm and serenity as you come into Montreat is apparent. It's truly beautiful. At the Westminster Women's Retreat, our hope is that you experience God in a new and powerful way; learn something new about yourself through the messages brought to us by our speaker, Reverend Neeley Lane; meet new friends; grow relationships; and have a getaway weekend for yourself. Please join us for a weekend of devotions, fellowship, music and fun. Sign up now through January 20, 2024 via the WPC homepage. Single rooms are first come, first serve and fill up! Join up with a friend(s) to get a double or quad room! Contact the church office or Jill Fairey, Moderator, (802-920-2071) with any questions.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 9

- Circle 3, at the home of Becky Waldrep (200 Meyers Dr) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, January 10

- Circle 6, at the home of Liz Einstein (223 Camille Ave) at 9a. Circle Co-Chairs: Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) and Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com).

Tuesday, January 16

- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Chair: Josie Williams (jgwilliams1803@gmail.com).

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

Music is an important way to communicate with young children even before they are able to sing along. First Steps in Music is an opportunity at Westminster that provides important time for parents or grandparents to enjoy music with their child/grandchild. Led by WPC member Diana Dailey, the First Steps classes teach simple songs, games, and prayers for 2- and 3-year olds and adults to experience together. The next class will be offered from 4:30-5p beginning Sunday, January 21. Register is available on the home page of Westminster's website: www.wpc-online.org/events/registration.

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.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Ben Dorr
Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Terri Price
Parish Associate
tprice@wpc-online.org

Marlon Hurst
Director of Music
mhurst@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell
Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Lynn Bennett
Financial Manager
lbennett@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

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

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
January 7-14, 2024**

Sunday, January 7

Baptism of the Lord

- 9:00a Worship Service
Creation Stewardship Group
Membership Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
Teacher Interest Meeting
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
Confirmation Class
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 2:00p APNC 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

Monday, January 8

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

- 9:00a Circle 6
- 10:15 Weekday Chapel
- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 11

- 8:30a Hiking Group
- 10:00 Thursday Bible Study
- 5:00p Health & Safety Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, January 12 - Monday, January 15
Senior Highs to Universal Studios

Sunday, January 14

Third Sunday after Christmas

- 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
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVI | January 7, 2024 | No. 38

From the Pews, John MacCarthy

Mark is my favorite book of Christian Scriptures. While it is likely the first Gospel written, I find it to be the most elegant and straightforward of the four.

The reading for today starts this Gospel by harkening back to Genesis with “In the beginning...” and continues with “of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” What could be a better message for the start of a New Year? And how could it more clearly state who Jesus is and that his birth signals a new beginning for the world?

The next two verses come from the prophet Isaiah (my favorite book of Hebrew Scriptures). It not only establishes the role of John the Baptist; it also serves as a guide for us as we begin a new year. We are to “Prepare the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight.” As I read the passage, I find myself asking “How can I best do this?”

The next few verses (4–8) describe John and how he is preparing the way of the Lord—it is by helping people to be forgiven for their sins and by proclaiming the nature of Jesus. Again, what could be better guidance for us in the year to come, than to forgive sins and to proclaim the nature of Jesus?

Finally, verses 9–11 address the baptism of Jesus. While theologically important in establishing that Jesus is God’s Son (with whom He is “well pleased”), it also speaks to me personally about the importance of humility. Jesus sees it as necessary to be baptized (for the forgiveness of sins?) by another servant of God (John). If Jesus is this humble, perhaps we all need to practice a bit more humility in the coming year.

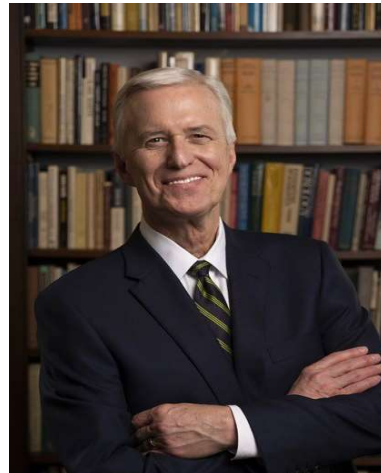
As I stated previously, Mark is my favorite book in the Bible. I am in awe of how much he packs into 12 verses with elegant simplicity, and how appropriate these messages are for our start of a new year.

Heritage Lecturer

January 21, 2024

M. Craig Barnes

*"The Changing Nature
of Church Home"*



The Heritage Lecture Committee is pleased to welcome the Reverend Dr. Craig Barnes to Westminster on Sunday, January 21. He will share in both worship services as well as in a joint adult Sunday School class.

Craig was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from The University of Chicago.

He served as the pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI, until 1992 when he became the pastor of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. In 2002 he became a chaired professor at Pittsburgh Seminary while also serving as the pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. In 2012 he was elected president of Princeton Theological Seminary and became the president emeritus in January 2023.

He has nine published books including "When God Interrupts," "Pastor as Minor Poet," and most recently "Diary of a Pastor's Soul." He has also served as a contributor and Editor at Large to The Christian Century for many years.

He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes who is an interior designer. They have three fabulous children, four delightful grandchildren, and a frisbee-addicted Bearded Collie.

Heritage Lecturer

January 21, 2024

M. Craig Barnes

*"The Changing Nature
of Church Home"*



The Heritage Lecture Committee is pleased to welcome the Reverend Dr. Craig Barnes to Westminster on Sunday, January 21. He will share in both worship services as well as in a joint adult Sunday School class.

Craig was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from The University of Chicago.

He served as the pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI, until 1992 when he became the pastor of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. In 2002 he became a chaired professor at Pittsburgh Seminary while also serving as the pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. In 2012 he was elected president of Princeton Theological Seminary and became the president emeritus in January 2023.

He has nine published books including "When God Interrupts," "Pastor as Minor Poet," and most recently "Diary of a Pastor's Soul." He has also served as a contributor and Editor at Large to The Christian Century for many years.

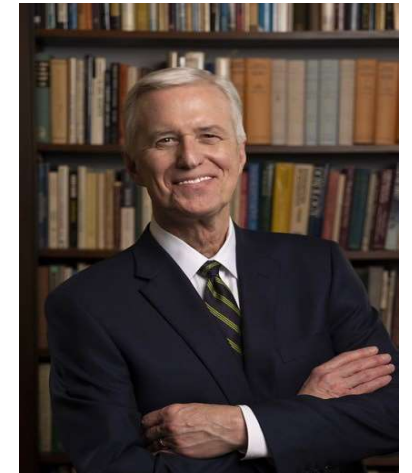
He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes who is an interior designer. They have three fabulous children, four delightful grandchildren, and a frisbee-addicted Bearded Collie.

Heritage Lecturer

January 21, 2024

M. Craig Barnes

*"The Changing Nature
of Church Home"*



The Heritage Lecture Committee is pleased to welcome the Reverend Dr. Craig Barnes to Westminster on Sunday, January 21. He will share in both worship services as well as in a joint adult Sunday School class.

Craig was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from The University of Chicago.

He served as the pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI, until 1992 when he became the pastor of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. In 2002 he became a chaired professor at Pittsburgh Seminary while also serving as the pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. In 2012 he was elected president of Princeton Theological Seminary and became the president emeritus in January 2023.

He has nine published books including "When God Interrupts," "Pastor as Minor Poet," and most recently "Diary of a Pastor's Soul." He has also served as a contributor and Editor at Large to The Christian Century for many years.

He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes who is an interior designer. They have three fabulous children, four delightful grandchildren, and a frisbee-addicted Bearded Collie.

ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, 1/7 AND 1/14

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. The current quarter runs through January 14. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

1. The Flock Reads
Facilitated by Trey Morrow

Room 212

Join the Flock (an age-and-stage group at Westminster with folks ranging from mid-40s through late 50s) for an in-depth study of a book of the Bible. Each week the group will read and explore a text from the Gospels. This discussion-style class is facilitated by Trey Morrow and other members of the Flock.

2. Characters of Christmas
Taught by Leigh Stuckey

Room 209 and Streaming

Join Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey for this lecture-style class exploring oft-forgotten characters in the Christmas story: Mary & Joseph, the angels, Zechariah and Elizabeth, the Magi, and Simeon. Each Sunday we will explore the text and its context, and consider how the faith of each character can inspire our own.

ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, 1/7 AND 1/14

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. The current quarter runs through January 14. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

1. The Flock Reads
Facilitated by Trey Morrow

Room 212

Join the Flock (an age-and-stage group at Westminster with folks ranging from mid-40s through late 50s) for an in-depth study of a book of the Bible. Each week the group will read and explore a text from the Gospels. This discussion-style class is facilitated by Trey Morrow and other members of the Flock.

2. Characters of Christmas
Taught by Leigh Stuckey

Room 209 and Streaming

Join Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey for this lecture-style class exploring oft-forgotten characters in the Christmas story: Mary & Joseph, the angels, Zechariah and Elizabeth, the Magi, and Simeon. Each Sunday we will explore the text and its context, and consider how the faith of each character can inspire our own.

ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, 1/7 AND 1/14

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. The current quarter runs through January 14. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

1. The Flock Reads
Facilitated by Trey Morrow

Room 212

Join the Flock (an age-and-stage group at Westminster with folks ranging from mid-40s through late 50s) for an in-depth study of a book of the Bible. Each week the group will read and explore a text from the Gospels. This discussion-style class is facilitated by Trey Morrow and other members of the Flock.

2. Characters of Christmas
Taught by Leigh Stuckey

Room 209 and Streaming

Join Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey for this lecture-style class exploring oft-forgotten characters in the Christmas story: Mary & Joseph, the angels, Zechariah and Elizabeth, the Magi, and Simeon. Each Sunday we will explore the text and its context, and consider how the faith of each character can inspire our own.

SERMON SERIES: THE FABRIC OF FAITH

It is second-nature for Christians to talk about “having faith,” “growing up in the faith,” or “coming to faith in Jesus Christ.” But what do we mean when we use the word, “faith”? Over the upcoming weeks, our sermon series will explore the different ways that Scripture describes what it means to have faith. Topics will include faith as patience, faith as urgency, faith as seeing, faith as fear of the Lord, and faith as friendship. Today’s sermon will explore faith as struggle.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 28, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2024 budget, to vote on the 2024 terms of call for the pastoral staff, and to elect 13 elders to the Session. The nominees for elder are Ben Bloodworth, Ben Dillard, Will Edwards, Kathryn Freedman, Mary Gentry, Claire Gilliland, George Howell, Creighton Likes, Carrie Marguet, Trey Morrow, Mandy Pruitt, Elizabeth Timmons, and Sam White, Jr.

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

SERMON SERIES: THE FABRIC OF FAITH

It is second-nature for Christians to talk about “having faith,” “growing up in the faith,” or “coming to faith in Jesus Christ.” But what do we mean when we use the word, “faith”? Over the upcoming weeks, our sermon series will explore the different ways that Scripture describes what it means to have faith. Topics will include faith as patience, faith as urgency, faith as seeing, faith as fear of the Lord, and faith as friendship. Today’s sermon will explore faith as struggle.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 28, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2024 budget, to vote on the 2024 terms of call for the pastoral staff, and to elect 13 elders to the Session. The nominees for elder are Ben Bloodworth, Ben Dillard, Will Edwards, Kathryn Freedman, Mary Gentry, Claire Gilliland, George Howell, Creighton Likes, Carrie Marguet, Trey Morrow, Mandy Pruitt, Elizabeth Timmons, and Sam White, Jr.

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

SERMON SERIES: THE FABRIC OF FAITH

It is second-nature for Christians to talk about “having faith,” “growing up in the faith,” or “coming to faith in Jesus Christ.” But what do we mean when we use the word, “faith”? Over the upcoming weeks, our sermon series will explore the different ways that Scripture describes what it means to have faith. Topics will include faith as patience, faith as urgency, faith as seeing, faith as fear of the Lord, and faith as friendship. Today’s sermon will explore faith as struggle.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 28, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2024 budget, to vote on the 2024 terms of call for the pastoral staff, and to elect 13 elders to the Session. The nominees for elder are Ben Bloodworth, Ben Dillard, Will Edwards, Kathryn Freedman, Mary Gentry, Claire Gilliland, George Howell, Creighton Likes, Carrie Marguet, Trey Morrow, Mandy Pruitt, Elizabeth Timmons, and Sam White, Jr.

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow