



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Preparation for **Worship**

Let me do everything for the sake of You. Let me humble myself and exalt You. Let me think of nothing except You. Let me die to myself and live in You... Let me fear for myself, let me fear You, and let me be among those who are chosen by You. Let me distrust myself and put my trust in You. Let me be willing to obey for the sake of You. Let me cling to nothing save only to You, and let me be poor because of You. Look upon me, that I may love You. Call me that I may see You, and forever enjoy You. Amen.

Augustine of Hippo

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

Elizabeth Palmer

Prelude

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Jones

Choral Introit 11:15a

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Hymn 666, Stanza 1 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

* Call to Worship

Psalm 46:8-11

Leader: Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations God has brought on the earth.

People: **The Lord makes wars cease to the end of the earth; The Lord breaks the bow and shatters the spear.**

Leader: Thus says the Lord, "Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

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

Holy God, we know that your ways are not our ways, and your thoughts are not our thoughts.

We have received the gift of life with arrogance, and looked upon our neighbors with judgment and jealousy.

When you ask us to give lavishly, we fear for our future.

When you ask us to forgive joyfully, we cling tightly to our wounds.

Have mercy on us, gracious Lord.

Still our minds and quiet our souls.

Change us into the disciples you have created us to be, so that we would live simply, love generously,

follow faithfully, and work for reconciliation in 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 9a

Luke Michael Oswald

11:15a

Amelia Frances Revson

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.

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, *Psalm 111*

p. 490

Epistle Lesson, *1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

p. 927

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Should Our Sermons Scare You?"

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

To Behold Thee

Forrest

Offertory 11:15a

Hymn 412, "God Reveal Your Presence"

ARNSBERG

* 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 755

WEISSE FLAGGEN

Psalms 111 and 112: "Alleluia! Laud and Blessing"

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response 11:15a

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Hymn 666, Stanza 4 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

* Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

Manz

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Kathleen Reynolds (9a), Parks Workman (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Neil Shurley (9a), Emily Cole (11:15a), *sponsors*

Rosemary Hughes, *soloist* (9a), *guest choir conductor* (11:15a)

Nancy Smith, *guest organist*

Jacob Barker (9a), Clay Smoak (11:15a), *head ushers*

Stan Pendergrass, Nikki Grumbine, Jeff Reynolds,

Susan Robbins, Zach Weaver (9a), *greeters*

Ingrid Erwin, Roger Gower, Amy Hawkins,

Anne Howson, George McLarty (11:15a), *greeters*

Francie Whitted (9a), *acolyte*

Elizabeth Workman, 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 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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

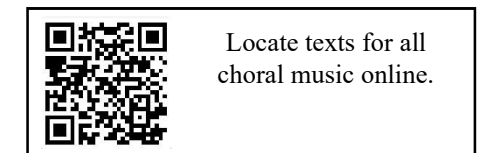
This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Luke Michael Oswald*, son of Michael & Lindsay Oswald.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Amelia Frances Revson*, daughter of Jay & Katie Revson.

Sanctuary Choir News

This week, members of the Sanctuary Choir are participating in the Festival by the Sea in Charleston, SC. This annual gathering of church choirs from the southeast celebrates fellowship, quality worship experiences, and expressing our faith through music in worship.



Locate texts for all choral music online.

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, February 4. 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.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

WPC YOUNG ADULTS

Join us this 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 LEizabethTimmons@gmail.com.

**CHERUB CHOIR
REGISTRATION OPEN**

Visit the WPC website to register your child for Cherub Choir. Cherub Choir is for children grades K4/ K5. Led by music educator Diana Dailey, the Cherub Choir meets weekly on Wednesday (3:30-4p) in Room 210 - beginning February 7 and continuing through mid-April.

WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 6, at 6:30p in the library. Please note the new meeting time. Ruth Johnston will lead the discussion of *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang. This book grapples with questions of diversity, racism, and cultural appropriation, as well as the terrifying alienation of social media. All are welcome!

**PANCAKE LUNCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
HOSTED BY MEN OF WESTMINSTER**

On Sunday, February 4, immediately following the 11:15a service, the Men of Westminster will host a pancake lunch for the congregation in the Fellowship Hall! The menu includes pancakes, bacon, eggs, and fresh fruit. Sign up on the church website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/#church-life>. Cost is \$10/person, with \$40 max per family. Children 2 and younger are free. Proceeds beyond the cost of the food will go to the Women of Westminster Scholarship Fund. Men of the church - if you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Tyler Fairey at tylerdfairey@gmail.com or 803-237-6009.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, February 19, at 7p. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion of *American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church*, by Andrew L. Whitehead. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JUNE 10-14
FOR RISING KINDERGARTENERS THROUGH RISING 5TH GRADERS
REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!**

Mark your calendars and join us for Westminster Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School 2024 - The Great Adventure. Children will explore Psalm 121:1 "I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? We will learn that God is always with us and will guide our path. We will learn to never give up even when the adventure seems so great! Finally, we will look to help others on their great adventure.

Register online at the link on our website or you can go directly to <https://vbspro.events/p/events/wpcvbs2024>. If you have questions or would like to know more, please write VBS on your connection card.

VBS needs volunteers! Please join us for a fun and fulfilling week with many volunteer opportunities! Older youth members who would like to be a classroom assistant and adult volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact vbs@wpc-online.org.

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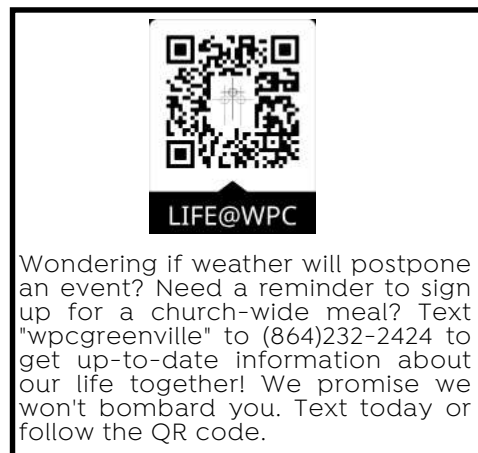
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
January 28 - February 4, 2024**

Sunday, January 28

- Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
- 9:00a Worship Service
 - Education Committee Meeting
 - 10:00 Sunday School
 - 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 - 11:15 Worship Service
 - 12:15p Annual Congregational Meeting
 - 2:00 New Elder Training (1 of 3)
 - 4:30 First Steps in Music
 - 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 29

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 30

- 12:00p AI-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, January 31

- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 1

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

Sunday, February 4

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00a Worship Service
- New Member Class
- 10:00 Sunday School
- Camp Fellowship Parent Interest Meeting
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Churchwide Pancake Lunch
- 2:00 New Elder Training (2 of 3)
- 4:30 First Steps in Music
- 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

Hallelujah! Praise God! One of the most cherished moments of worship each Sunday is the Doxology. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." To hear the congregation sing it in unison as we share our gifts back with God can really touch the soul.

I feel the same nurturing comfort when I read Psalm 111. No matter the chaos in my life, these words provide a light that reminds me of the many blessings I have truly received. It grounds me in gratitude.

We just entered a new year, and it begs pondering on the passing of time. The inevitable wheel of time keeps turning and spinning out a new day every day. Each passing day is a gift to be cherished or wasted.

I, unfortunately, have wasted too many days getting lost in stress, secular pursuits, the desire for control, cheap distractions. I lose sight of the gift before me, often drowning in a sea of turmoil and relentless pursuits.

Psalm 111 can serve as a daily life raft and guidepost to refocus. Praise God. Worship. Have gratitude for the many blessings from God. Remember His redeeming grace. Know that trust in God is wisdom. Try to follow His lead. Importantly, praise God!

As the new days are gifted to me this year, I will try to reflect on Psalm 111. I will bookend the great gift of each day by praising God! Perhaps this will lead to wisdom to recognize and embrace the many blessings that have been given to me, and the light will continue to shine through the chaos. Praise God! Hallelujah!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation this 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.

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, and faith as friendship. Today’s sermon will explore faith as fear of the Lord.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
FOLLOWING THE 11:15a WORSHIP SERVICE

It has long been a tradition of this church to have a service opportunity centered around food insecurity on Youth Sunday. This year we are thrilled to host Rise Against Hunger for a church-wide meal-packing event! Join WPCYG and your church family to pack over 5,000 meals in just over an hour following our second service! We will have a quick lunch immediately following the service in the 200 Hall and Entrance Pavillion. To sign up for lunch and to volunteer for Rise, visit the registration page of Westminster's website.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS

February is designated as Heart Month, focusing on heart health and cardiovascular disease prevention. What better way to celebrate this initiative than participating in a hands-only CPR class! According to the American Heart Association, about 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim’s chance of survival.

On Wednesday, February 21, at 4p, a 45-minute class will be held at Westminster in Room 209 and is open to 15 participants (teenagers and adults only). The class will teach basic hands-only CPR (compressions), NOT certification for full CPR training. We also hope to have an AED demonstration and practice as well. Childcare will be available during the class. Contact Emily Cole (864-612-6185) with questions. To sign up for the class, go to <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/cpr-class/>.

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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, January 28, and will run each Sunday through February 25. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

**1. The Last Days of Christ
Led by Leigh Stuckey****Room 209**

"The Christmas Feast is already a fading memory, / And already the mind begins to be vaguely aware / Of Lent and Good Friday which cannot, after all, now / Be very far off." (from For the Time Being , Auden). As we prepare to move into Lent, with the liturgical scent of pine a fading memory, we turn our eyes towards the final, climactic stories of Jesus' earthly life. Join us for this five week lecture-style series during which we will explore Peter's confession, the triumphal entry, John's account of the Last Supper, the Synoptic Last Supper, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

**2. The Confessions by St. Augustine of Hippo
Taught by John MacCarthy****Room 211**

St. Augustine (354-430 CE) is viewed as one of the most important of the early "Church Fathers." He is often credited with providing the initial philosophical basis for Christian theology, and his writings have had a major impact on the development of Western philosophy, Western Christianity, and developmental psychology. He is also considered one of the theological fathers of the Protestant Reformation and is credited with our understanding of doctrines of grace, predestination, and original sin. St. Augustine's Confessions is generally considered one of his most important (and accessible) works. It is the story of his journey from "sinful youth" to his adult conversion to Christianity (thanks to his mother's constant "help"). I personally find it to be one of the most hilariously funny works by a serious philosopher/theologian that I have had the pleasure to read (and I hope that by the end of the class, you will share this opinion as well). The course will begin with a brief overview of the life and significance of St. Augustine and some of the relevant heresies of the time and then proceed to an in-depth study of Confessions.

**3. The Flock Reads the Psalms
Led by Members of The Flock****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 Psalms. This discussion-style class is facilitated by members of the Flock.

Mark your calendars:**Celtic Spirituality and Our Scottish Roots****March 12-23, 2025: A Pilgrimage to Scotland**

Join Westminster members and families on our inaugural international pilgrimage! The 12-day journey provides a deep dive into the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church as well as its contemporary expression in the Church of Scotland. Pilgrims will also connect with the contemporary Iona community in Glasgow and on Iona (where aspiring golfers are welcome to choose a tee time). Highlights include Edinburgh and Glasgow, the Isle of Iona with its evocative abbey, and key sites related to the life and ministry of John Knox in St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Travelers of all ages are welcome. The trip is designed to partially overlap with Greenville County Schools Spring Break. Contact Leigh Stuckey for more information. Final pricing and details to reserve your spot will be released in the coming months.

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**1. The Last Days of Christ
Led by Leigh Stuckey****Room 209**

"The Christmas Feast is already a fading memory, / And already the mind begins to be vaguely aware / Of Lent and Good Friday which cannot, after all, now / Be very far off." (from For the Time Being , Auden). As we prepare to move into Lent, with the liturgical scent of pine a fading memory, we turn our eyes towards the final, climactic stories of Jesus' earthly life. Join us for this five week lecture-style series during which we will explore Peter's confession, the triumphal entry, John's account of the Last Supper, the Synoptic Last Supper, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

**2. The Confessions by St. Augustine of Hippo
Taught by John MacCarthy****Room 211**

St. Augustine (354-430 CE) is viewed as one of the most important of the early "Church Fathers." He is often credited with providing the initial philosophical basis for Christian theology, and his writings have had a major impact on the development of Western philosophy, Western Christianity, and developmental psychology. He is also considered one of the theological fathers of the Protestant Reformation and is credited with our understanding of doctrines of grace, predestination, and original sin. St. Augustine's Confessions is generally considered one of his most important (and accessible) works. It is the story of his journey from "sinful youth" to his adult conversion to Christianity (thanks to his mother's constant "help"). I personally find it to be one of the most hilariously funny works by a serious philosopher/theologian that I have had the pleasure to read (and I hope that by the end of the class, you will share this opinion as well). The course will begin with a brief overview of the life and significance of St. Augustine and some of the relevant heresies of the time and then proceed to an in-depth study of Confessions.

**3. The Flock Reads the Psalms
Led by Members of The Flock****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 Psalms. This discussion-style class is facilitated by members of the Flock.

Mark your calendars:**Celtic Spirituality and Our Scottish Roots****March 12-23, 2025: A Pilgrimage to Scotland**

Join Westminster members and families on our inaugural international pilgrimage! The 12-day journey provides a deep dive into the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church as well as its contemporary expression in the Church of Scotland. Pilgrims will also connect with the contemporary Iona community in Glasgow and on Iona (where aspiring golfers are welcome to choose a tee time). Highlights include Edinburgh and Glasgow, the Isle of Iona with its evocative abbey, and key sites related to the life and ministry of John Knox in St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Travelers of all ages are welcome. The trip is designed to partially overlap with Greenville County Schools Spring Break. Contact Leigh Stuckey for more information. Final pricing and details to reserve your spot will be released in the coming months.