



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.”

Reinhold Neibuhr, from *The Irony of American History*

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 *Prelude and Fugue in B-Flat Major* Bach

Introit, Hymn 399 11:15a "God Welcomes All" THEMBA AMEN

* Call to Worship Psalm 130:1, 10-12

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

People: **God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who fear God.

People: **As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

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

* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, we are in danger of wasting the gifts of life and love that you have given us. Our wealth has not made us more secure, yet we are reluctant to trust your truth. Our wisdom has led us far away from paths of peace, yet we do not trust your way. We are blind to the people we hurt, the neighbors we ignore, and the strangers we fail to welcome. Almighty God, forgive us. Give us humble and obedient hearts, so that we would see clearly our dependence on your grace. Help us grow each day into the joyful and generous children you created us to be. 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

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 Sarah Katherine Turner

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, *Psalms 51:1-5, 10-12* p. 452

New Testament Lesson, *Romans 7:14-25a* p. 918

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Capacity"

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 *Wilt Thou Forgive?* Hilton, ed. Scott
 Offertory 11:15a *Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake* Farrant

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDETH

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 649 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" AMAZING GRACE

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 742 11:15a "We Will Walk with God" SIZOHAMBA NAYE
First time, choir; Second time, choir and congregation

We will walk with God together; we will walk with God. We will walk with God together; we will walk with God. We will go rejoicing till the Kingdom has come. We will go rejoicing till the Kingdom has come.

* Postlude *Grand Chorus in F* Franck

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
 Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*
 Walker Miller, *sponsor*
 Stephanie Morgan (9a), Catherine Blount (11:15a), *scripture reader*
 Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*
 Sanctuary Choir
 Kathi Hurst (9a), *soloist*
 Jeff Reynolds (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*
 Emily Cole, Ingrid Erwin, Roger Gower,
 Amy Hawkins, Anne Howson (9a), *greeters*
 Jeff Reynolds, Susan Robbins, Betsy Raines,
 Mary Gentry, Stan Pendergrass (11:15a), *greeters*
 Chandler Murphy (9a), *acolyte*
 Mary Eliza Duncan(9a & 11:15a), *acolyte*

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.

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.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

Texts for vocal solos and choral music may be found online by scanning this QR code.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Sarah Katherine Turner, daughter of Chase & Alex Turner.

We Remember in Prayer

Aaron Cizon and his family on the death of Aaron’s father, Paul Cizon, on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

We Remember in Prayer

Brady Godfrey and her family on the death of Brady’s father, Thomas Boozer, on Saturday, September 7, 2024.

In Memoriam

Eleanor Roy "Lyn" Douglas (7/7/1942 - 9/8/2024)
"I am the resurrection and the life."
 - John 11:25

FALL SERMON SERIES

"Against the Grain: Paul’s Radical Message of Love and Hope"

The letters of the Apostle Paul are the earliest documents of the New Testament, written before any of the Gospels. They have shaped Christian theology and thought for centuries, and remain a powerful message of love and hope today. Our fall sermon series will explore Paul’s theology and the ways in which his message is good news, particularly in a time of cultural division, religious decline, and an upcoming election season. The topic this Sunday is Paul’s understanding of sin.

2024 ADVENT DEVOTIONS

It’s that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to write short devotionals to be included in the 2024 Advent Devotions series. Please contact Abbie Coleman at abbie.garrison3@gmail.com if you would be willing to help with this.

WESTCONNECT

WestConnect groups are starting up again this October! WestConnect is a weekly small group ministry gathered around fellowship, study, and prayer. Fill out an interest form (located in the Ritual of Friendship books) to sign up, or contact Nick Carson with any questions.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, September 16, at 7 p.m. Amos Workman will lead the discussion of *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, September 18, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

PVC HOMEWORK HELPERS NEEDED

Consider joining the wonderful team of homework helpers at Pleasant Valley. You will be paired with an elementary student to work with for the school year on homework and skills. We have availability Monday-Thursday afternoons for 30mins or 1hr time slots. Email Anna Hanor (ahanor@wpc-online.org) for more information and to get plugged into this great group!

BASKETBALL

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 13. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

CONNECT, SERVE, GROW SURVEY

Our long-range planning team, the Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force, needs your input! A survey has been created to gather feedback from all Westminster members, confirmed 10th graders and older. Your participation is essential as we evaluate Westminster's strengths, gifts, and future needs. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes and can be accessed through the QR code. If you prefer a paper copy, please contact the church office. For households with multiple confirmed members, we hope each of you will participate. The survey will remain open until the end of September.



CREATION STEWARDSHIP

WPC's Creation Stewardship group will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, September 15, at 9a in Room 211. All who are interested in the care of God's creation are invited to participate.

LGBTQ+ GATHERING

Formerly Pride & Presbyterians, join us Tuesday, September 24 at 6p at The Commons for a LGBTQ+ Gathering. Come, grab a drink, and connect with other LGBTQ+ folks at WPC. Contact Nick Carson to RSVP!

CHERUB CHOIR

It's time for Westminster's youngest voices, 4K and 5K children, to register for Cherub Choir. Cherub Choir Director, Diana Dailey, will expose young voices to new sounds and experiences through music beginning October 2. Cherubs will meet in Room 210 from 3:30-4p. Parents may also volunteer to help with Cherubs on Wednesday. For more information, contact Diana Dailey (ddailey@wpc-online.org).

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 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, October 6. Click here to register or contact Diana Dailey for more information.

wpccgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
September 15-22, 2024

Sunday, September 15
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Worship Service
Creation Stewardship Meeting
Membership Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
4:30 Baptism Class
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, September 16
7:00p Theology Reading Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 17
12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
6:00 Circle 7 Meeting
Men of Westminster Board Meeting
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 18
12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
2:15 It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 19
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
12:00p Endowment Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, September 22
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
5:00p Middler Youth Group
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

Our Vision:
Open Minds
Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | September 15, 2024 | No. 22

From the Pews, Scott & Susan Clark

Alone with your thoughts in the night your mind may run wild with an endless succession of possibilities of negative, uncontrollable events that could befall you and those you love. In the darkness, your imagination knows almost no limits to where destiny or chance can take you against your will.

Or it could be that your thoughts are the playground of your brightest hopes and sunniest dreams and ambitions.

Either way, life most often finds you in the space between your worst fears and your brightest hopes. Through life's bumps and bounces in this space you may seek to determine the degree to which destiny, chance and your choice of action influence your fate. And in contemplating that, you are, of course, reminded of the 1994 movie "Forrest Gump."

The film features a feather that is often interpreted as a symbol of destiny or chance. At the beginning of the film, we see the feather seemingly aimlessly adrift in the wind before inevitably landing at Forrest's feet where he plucks it up, examines it and places it in his book. The appearance of the feather and the actions taken suggest that there is a sense of purpose and direction in Forrest's experiences. At the end of the movie, the feather slips from the book and is swept away again on the wind as a way to complete the story. This visualization represents the idea that life is in fact unpredictable and that events are beyond the control of destiny and your actions.

The film leaves it for the viewer to decide whether it is against your actions that destiny or chance is the primary force in determining your fate. Forrest, for his part, states that perhaps it is both things happening at the same time.

There is something about the question of fate that the movie leaves untouched though and it has to do with faith and its role in dealing with your doubts, fears and hopes.

Faith is the thing that keeps you from being overrun with doubt and fear. Faith is the thing that fuels your hopes and optimism. As Christians we are taught to have faith despite the chance involved in the things that we cannot control – to have faith that God is with us and our destiny is assured.

In Matthew 17:20 Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." The mountain in your life is important for sure but let us choose to focus on the seed. Metaphorically, whether it is a mustard seed or seed of faith, it turns out that faith is the important thing. Whether in times of trial or times of ease – faith is enough. Where would we be without our faith in the Lord, without our faith in humanity, without our faith in family and friends?

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "Don't judge each day by the harvest that you reap but by the seeds that you plant." Seeds of doubt or seeds of faith, what seeds do you choose to plant?

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITIES:

2024 CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 11-14

Travel to Charleston to learn more about the Gullah-Geechee community of South Carolina, visit Mother Emmanuel AMC, worship with a historically Black PCUSA congregation organized during Reconstruction, and visit the newly opened International African American Museum in Charleston.

2025 A PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND MARCH 12-23

Join us on our inaugural international pilgrimage! The 12-day journey provides a deep dive into the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church.

Contact Leigh Stuckey with questions or for more information regarding either, or both, of these pilgrimages.

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, September 22. 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 Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

WITNESS AND SERVICE TRIP TO SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO FEBRUARY 22- MARCH 1, 2025

Join us as we travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico to partner with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance response in the Monteflores neighborhood of San Juan. Puerto Rico was severely affected by Tropical Storm Ernesto this past summer, and we'll be joining the ongoing disaster response effort which began in response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Contact Nick Carson to learn more or sign-up.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 17

- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Contact: Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

Fall Kick Off Social Thursday, September 19 at 6p

Join us, and bring a friend or few, to celebrate the kick off of our fall/winter season. We will gather at the home of Laurie Koch (5 Frontus St, 29605). Light refreshments and beverages will be served. This has always been a great event to attend and meet new and old friends. Look for more information on our Instagram.

Weekday Social Wednesday, October 16 at 6p

Join us for our monthly Happy Hour Social at the New York Butcher Shop. Come enjoy being with your WOW friends.

Church-Wide Lunch Sunday, October 27 at 12p

Enjoy a yummy meal with WOW members and family. We will have a football themed raffle to support our Scholarship Fund for Fostering Great Ideas.

Weekday Social Tuesday, November 19 at 6p

Join us for our monthly Happy Hour Social at Hoppin Greenville. Come enjoy being with your WOW friends.

Advent Luncheon Sunday, December 8 at 12p

Join us for an afternoon of lunch and fellowship as we prepare for the Advent season.

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This Sunday, September 15, we'll resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

Children Sunday School Class Locations

Shine Curriculum

*5K/1st (Room 109)
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)*

Illustrated Ministry Mini-Revolutions

4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth on Sunday Mornings

Two Sundays a month, our ***Middlers*** are invited to hang-out in the Entrance Pavilion and enjoy self-guided devotions and free time in the gym. This time will be supported by parent volunteers who will serve as an adult presence. Sundays this fall are 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/10/, 11/24, and 12/8.

Senior Highs are invited to join our Senior High WestConnect that will begin meeting in October and is facilitated by youth elder, Ben Bloodworth. You can sign-up online beginning the third week of September.

On Sunday morning when we don't have formal plans for our youth, they are invited to hang out in the Friendship Court, Library, or Atrium. Check out some books, bring your homework, or enjoy catching up with friends.

Adult Sunday School (September 8-29)

***Sola What? Exploring Capital "R" Reformed Faith for the 21st Century led by Leigh Stuckey
Room 209***

In the 16th Century Martin Luther revolutionized the Western world with his Ninety-Five Theses. Through his protests a new church movement began. Yet even then questions about how one comes to know God, how one is reconciled to God, and how one experiences God in worship were hotly contested. In opposition to Lutheranism and Episcopalianism a new "Reformed" theology began to be developed—one focused on God's absolute sovereignty, the revelation of God in the Word, and the glory of God in creation. From Reformed theology came Presbyterianism. "Sola What?" will explore classical Reformed theology—from the shape of worship to the much dreaded "predestination"—and its application to our life at Westminster.

***A Prophet Has No Home: Understanding the Housing Crisis and What We Can Do About It
Room 212***

Hear from a series of speakers as we explore one of the most critical issues facing our community: housing and homelessness.

September 15: Hear from **United Ministries Executive Director Lizzie Bebber** about the housing crisis in Greenville and how one nonprofit is caring for some of Greenville's most vulnerable residents.

September 22: Join **Greenville City Councilwoman Dorothy Dowe** to explore how our city government is managing growth and addressing the housing crisis.

September 29: Hear from **Susan McLarty, Executive Director of Greenville Homeless Alliance**, about best practice in caring for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and what we can learn from other cities.

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Shine Curriculum

*5K/1st (Room 109)
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)*

Illustrated Ministry Mini-Revolutions

4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth on Sunday Mornings

Two Sundays a month, our ***Middlers*** are invited to hang-out in the Entrance Pavilion and enjoy self-guided devotions and free time in the gym. This time will be supported by parent volunteers who will serve as an adult presence. Sundays this fall are 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/10/, 11/24, and 12/8.

Senior Highs are invited to join our Senior High WestConnect that will begin meeting in October and is facilitated by youth elder, Ben Bloodworth. You can sign-up online beginning the third week of September.

On Sunday morning when we don't have formal plans for our youth, they are invited to hang out in the Friendship Court, Library, or Atrium. Check out some books, bring your homework, or enjoy catching up with friends.

Adult Sunday School (September 8-29)

***Sola What? Exploring Capital "R" Reformed Faith for the 21st Century led by Leigh Stuckey
Room 209***

In the 16th Century Martin Luther revolutionized the Western world with his Ninety-Five Theses. Through his protests a new church movement began. Yet even then questions about how one comes to know God, how one is reconciled to God, and how one experiences God in worship were hotly contested. In opposition to Lutheranism and Episcopalianism a new "Reformed" theology began to be developed—one focused on God's absolute sovereignty, the revelation of God in the Word, and the glory of God in creation. From Reformed theology came Presbyterianism. "Sola What?" will explore classical Reformed theology—from the shape of worship to the much dreaded "predestination"—and its application to our life at Westminster.

***A Prophet Has No Home: Understanding the Housing Crisis and What We Can Do About It
Room 212***

Hear from a series of speakers as we explore one of the most critical issues facing our community: housing and homelessness.

September 15: Hear from **United Ministries Executive Director Lizzie Bebber** about the housing crisis in Greenville and how one nonprofit is caring for some of Greenville's most vulnerable residents.

September 22: Join **Greenville City Councilwoman Dorothy Dowe** to explore how our city government is managing growth and addressing the housing crisis.

September 29: Hear from **Susan McLarty, Executive Director of Greenville Homeless Alliance**, about best practice in caring for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and what we can learn from other cities.