



World Communion Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

God of grace, you call us to the holy table of the Lord, to proclaim his death and receive his gift of life. Enable us to come with earnest faith and kindled devotion. Help us to remember Christ's self-offering with thanksgiving and praise. Open our hearts and minds to a vision of his love, and pour into our souls the fullness of his grace. As we offer ourselves to you, let us go forth to live and serve as those whose lives are not our own, but belong to you. 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.

Minute for Stewardship

Gayle Blouin

Prelude *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

Schmoltze

* Call to Worship

Leader: Be of the same mind, having the same love,
 in full accord and of one mind.

**People: Let each of us look not to our own interests,
 but to the interests of others.**

Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

**People: He who humbled himself and became obedient
 to the point of death - even death on a cross.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 511 "Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven"

LLANFAIR

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, forgive us for relying on worldly wisdom
 instead of your way.**

**We have built strong defenses against your grace and truth.
 We love selectively.**

We live lavishly.

We avoid the most vulnerable.

With hesitant faith and hedged bets,

we tip-toe around the crisis of the cross.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, and give us newfound courage.

**By the power of your Spirit, let our words be kind,
 let our hearts be joyful,**

let our hands be generous,

and let our lives be sacrificial,

all for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,

through whom 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.***

Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 16:21-23*

p. 798

Epistle Lesson, *1 Corinthians 1:17-18*

p. 926

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *"The Vulnerability of God"*

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of
 heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
 Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being
 with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and
 for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of
 the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
 death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in
 accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and
 is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again
 in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will
 have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who
 proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and
 the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through
 the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
 Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
 sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of
 the world to come. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Music during Communion

"Pie Jesu" from *Requiem*

Fauré

Bread and Wine

Blake

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory

"Sanctus" from *Requiem*

Fauré

* Doxology #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 317 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

McKee

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Toccata*

Wagner

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Brad Hawkins, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

Rosemary Hughes, *pianist*

Kathryn Knauer, *soloist*

The Sanctuary Choir

Meg Hyche, *head usher*

Amy Hawkins, Claire Gilliland, Lindsey Donlan,

Parks Workman, Walker Miller, *greeters*

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.



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

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESSING OFFERING

This Sunday, October 6, we will be taking our annual Peace & Global Witnessing Offering. These gifts enable the PC(USA) to promote economic and social peace all over the world. Twenty-five percent of the offering stays at Westminster for local peacemaking missions. Special envelopes for your contributions are located in the Ritual of Friendship pads.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

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 vulnerability.

**BASKETBALL-
DEADLINE ENDING SOON!**

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).

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. Our next gathering will be Friday, October 11, at 7p at the home of Scott & Melissa Anderson (3 Fairview Ave.). Watch your email for more information or check the church's web site ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

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.

**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.

**PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY:
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.

**TRICK OR TREAT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30**

On Wednesday, October 30, our children will bring joy to residents at Terra Bella Retirement Home as they go trick-or-treating in their Halloween costumes. Arrive at the church at 5:30p to walk over together to trick-or-treat with residents. We'll return to the Fellowship Hall for dinner afterwards. There is no cost, but we ask that you sign up so we know how much food to prepare. Sign up at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/trick-or-treat/>.

**With Thanksgiving We Celebrate
MARRIAGE**

On Saturday, September 28, 2024, *Kathryn Murdoch* and *Rob Little* were united in marriage at Westminster.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, October 8, at 6:30p in the church library. Mary Martha Smoak will lead the discussion on *The Caretaker* by Ron Rash. This book is about a family dealing with their mother's romance with a film star before the children were born, provoking various thoughts. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. All are welcome to come.

HIKING GROUP





The Hiking Group's plans have changed. The group will meet on October 10, at the Vietnam Memorial (near the zoo) for a four-mile walk along the Swamp Rabbit Trail on Thursday, October 10. Lunch will be at White Duck Taco. Contact Anne Holleman to RSVP or for more information.

**WPC SANCTUARY CHOIR TO PERFORM
REQUIEM BY GABRIEL FAURÉ**

The WPC Sanctuary Choir will join forces with the Sanctuary Choir of First Baptist, Greenville, and the Columbia Choral Society to present *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré on Thursday, October 10, 7:30p at First Baptist Church (847 Cleveland St). The *Requiem* is a beloved masterpiece of choral/orchestral music. This program is being presented as the preliminary concert of the SC American Choral Directors Association fall conference this year, the 100th anniversary year of Fauré's death. The work will be conducted by Dr. Hugh Floyd and accompanied by chamber orchestra with Charles Tompkins, organist. This is a free concert, open to the public.

CONNECTIONS LUNCH GROUP

The Connections Luncheon Group will meet Sunday, October 13, at 12:45p at The Iron Hill Brewery (741 Haywood Road). Please RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, October 11. All are welcome!

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

THE HARBINGER
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Our Vision:
Open Minds
Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
October 6-13, 2024**

Sunday, October 6
World Communion Sunday
10:00a Sunday School
WestConnect (LMiller - 213)
WestConnect Youth (BBloodworth-211)
WestConnect (KReynolds - 309)
WestConnect (CBuchanan - 313)
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
4:00p First Steps Music Class 1
4:30 First Steps Music Class 2
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, October 7
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, October 8
12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
Administrative Committee Meeting
Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
Basketball Coach Meeting
6:00 Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, October 9
9:00a Circle 6 Meeting
9:30 Weekday Chapel
2:15p It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
5:30 WestConnect (PEvans-Lounge)
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 10
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
Hiking Group
12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, October 11
Low Country Civil Rights Pilgrimage
7:00p Lightly Seasoned Group

Saturday, October 12
Low Country Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Sunday, October 13
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Low Country Civil Rights Pilgrimage
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect (LMiller - 213)
WestConnect Youth (BBloodworth-211)
WestConnect (KReynolds - 309)
WestConnect (CBuchanan - 313)
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:45p Connections Group
4:00 First Steps Music Class 1
4:30 First Steps Music Class 2
NO WPCYG OR YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, October 21 at 7p. Lucy Stewart will lead the discussion of *Jabbok*, a novel by Kee Sloan. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | October 6, 2024 | No. 25

From the Pews, Josh Riley

Westminster has been a place where our family has found not only a spiritual home but a community that consistently invests in us in meaningful ways. Since joining two years ago, we've experienced the depth of that investment through the love, guidance, and opportunities for growth it has provided. From moments of prayer to communal worship, the time and energy poured into Westminster by its members and staff have truly made a difference in our lives.

For us, Westminster is more than a church; it's a place where we've seen God's presence at work, not only in the personal encouragement we've received but also in the ways we've been able to serve others. When my brother passed away, the church reached out to me with compassion and support, reminding me of the powerful presence of God during a difficult time. Whether it's participating in the pancake breakfast or being part of community outreach, we've found meaningful ways to give back. We also love seeing our daughter's joy in making up songs about God—thanks to her time in the cherub choir and nursery—which has strengthened our family's connection to faith in a beautiful way. The investments of love, time, and resources from the Westminster family have deepened our faith and our bonds with each other and the community.

In return, we've felt called to invest ourselves more deeply in Westminster—whether through serving, giving, or simply being present. We've witnessed how these investments have multiplied, touching the lives of others and contributing to the larger mission of the church. And because of the impact Westminster has had on our lives and the lives of others, we are increasing our pledge this year as a way of continuing to support and grow this community we hold dear.

God's work is evident in every aspect of life at Westminster, and we are grateful to be part of it.

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF FUND

Westminster has established a Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. Our Witness & Service Committee will determine the most urgent needs through our partner agencies and decide how best to use the funds. If you would like to give to this fund, you may make a check to Westminster, and write "Hurricane Helene Relief Fund" in the memo line. Or you may give through our website. On the Westminster homepage (wpc-online.org), click the Give Today link. That redirects to the Give webpage. On this page, click the Make a Gift/Give Today link. Fill in the requested information, choosing "Hurricane Helene Relief Fund" from the "I am giving today..." dropdown menu. Continue to fill in the requested information, clicking Submit to finalize the transaction. Thank you for your generosity during this difficult time for so many in our Greenville community and our neighbors in North Carolina!

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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.



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Instructions for Communion Today

If you are seated in the main section of pews, you will proceed up the center aisle to receive communion. Please wait for an usher to prompt your row. Please take communion from one of the two serving stations at the front of the chancel, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

When you come to a serving station, take a piece of bread from the plate, dip the bread in the cup, and eat. All cups contain grape juice.

If you are seated in the transept pews at either side of the sanctuary, you will take communion from the servers at the back of the transept. The section of pews closest to the chancel will go first. Please wait to be prompted by the usher. When prompted, please proceed down the center aisle of the transept, take communion at the back of the transept, returning to your pew via the side transept aisle closest to your pew.

Please remain quiet during communion so that those who wish to pray may do so.

If you would like to receive communion but are unable to come forward, or if you would simply prefer to remain seated, there are two rovers to provide you with communion, one on each side aisle. When the rovers approach your pew, simply raise your hand to indicate that you would like to receive communion in your seat.

The bread we are offering at today's communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sour dough (rice flour, water), rice starch, cornstarch, sugars (rice syrup, caramelized sugar), modified cellulose, psyllium seed husk (vegetable fibre), sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fibre, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour. May Contain: Mustard, Sesame.

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