



Reformation Sunday
Preparation for **Worship**

“There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one...Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your own selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.”

C.S. Lewis

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 Kim Kent

Prelude *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* Utterback

Choral Introit, Hymn 412 *11:15a* "God, Reveal Your Presence" ARNSBERG

* Call to Worship

Leader: It is well with those who deal generously and lend.
People: **They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor, their righteousness endures forever.**

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love.
People: **As Christ loved us, and gave himself up for us.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 624 "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" TOULON

* Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and what we have left undone.
You alone know how often we have wandered from your ways,
wasted your gifts, and forgotten your love.
Forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we would give thanks at all times,
share all that we’ve been given,
and be generous with all people.
We ask it in the name of the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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* Archer Marcus Allendorf
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

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 6:19-21, 24* p. 787

Epistle Lesson, *2 Corinthians 9:6-8* p. 942

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Will It Be a Good Investment?"

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* "Today, We All Are Called to Be Disciples" arr. McKenney

Offertory *11:15a* Now Thank We All Our God arr. Randall Thompson

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDETH

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 708 "We Give Thee but Thine Own" SCHUMANN

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 549 *11:15a* "May the Love of the Lord" SOON TI

* Postlude *Partita on "Ein Feste Burg"* Costello

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Nick Carson, *liturgist*
Roger Gower, *sponsor*
Gaye Sprague (9a), Biff Dickerson (11:15a), *scripture readers*
Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*
Sanctuary Choir
Judy McKenney (9a), *soloist*
Rosemary Hughes (11:15a), *flute*
Parks Workman (9a), Bryan Kelley (11:15a), *head ushers*
Carroll Farmer, Ingrid Erwin, Jordan Smith,
Elizabeth Timmons, Susan Robbins(9a), *greeters*
Emily Cole, Lindsey Donlan, Bill Holt,
Ginny Bernard, Emily Cole (11:15a), *greeters*
Manning Dailey (9a), Virginia Boan (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.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 10!

Our stewardship campaign theme this year is Invest. We are asking the congregation, if possible, to increase its investment in Westminster. If you do not currently give to Westminster, please consider making a gift. If you do currently give or pledge, please consider raising your investment. If everyone increases their giving by 8%, we will reach our goal. Thank you for your generosity, and for all the ways that you invest in Westminster!



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 Archer Marcus Allendorf, son of Tucker & Jessica Allendorf.

In Memoriam

Larry H. Cooke
(12/14/1939 - 10/18/2024)
"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 giving.

2024 PLEDGE UPDATE

At the end of September, we were 3/4 of the way through the year, and had received 58% of anticipated pledge income. Please check your quarterly giving statement to see where you stand with your 2024 giving. Thank you for your generosity with Westminster!

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, November 10, at 4p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir is a part time adult choir that meets periodically to rehearse a single choral anthem for presentation in a 9a Sunday worship service. They will next gather on Tuesday, October 29 from 7-7:45p to rehearse a piece to be presented in worship on Sunday, November 3. All are welcome to participate. For further information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Child Protection Training will be offered on Sundays, October 27 and November 10, during the 10a Sunday School hour in Room 114. Training is required by the Session for anyone volunteering with children and youth. Contact Lauren Slingerland (lslingerland@wpc-online.org) for more information.

TRICK OR TREAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Our annual Witness & Service trick-or-treat event at Terra Bella will be 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/>.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
SOTERIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WPC is continuing monthly dinners with the women of Soteria! Our next dinner is Monday, November 11. We are looking for women to bring dinner and participate in fellowship with residents of the Soteria Women's House. Please email Brooke Culclasure (bculclasure@mac.com) to volunteer.

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.

CHURCHWIDE FALL LUNCHEON

The Women of Westminster invite you to a church wide Fall Luncheon. Please join us Sunday, October 27, following the 11:15a service in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a loaded baked potato bar, salad and dessert. Sign up on the church website \$13.00 adults, \$10 children (ages 3-11) and \$45 maximum per family. We hope you will come and enjoy fellowship and fun with your church family. Any questions please contact Jill Fairey, 803-920-2071.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, November 5, at 6:30p in the library. Carol Hinton will lead our discussion of *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. This book is about a family dealing with their mother's romance with a film star before the children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. All are welcome to come!

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.

YOUNG ADULTS

Join us for an oyster roast on Sunday, November 17, from 3-5p at the home of Tyler & Mary Knight Felt (214 Aberdeen Dr). Cost is \$15 per adult and covers oysters and appetizers. Please BYOB. Children are welcome and eat for free! To reserve your spot, please Venmo @MaryKnightFelt. Questions? Contact Mary Frances Weed (mfhb08@gmail.com).

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.

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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 20-27, 2024

Sunday, October 27

Reformation Sunday

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- WestConnect (LMiller - 309)
- WestConnect Youth (BBloodworth-211)
- WestConnect (KReynolds - 312)
- WestConnect (CBuchanan - 313)
- WestConnect (EStevenson - 213)
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Churchwide Fall Luncheon
- 4:00 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 Open Gym w/snacks
- WestConnect (HDorr - 213)
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, October 28

- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, October 29

- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 30

- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 5:30 Trick or Treat w/dinner
- 6:00 WestConnect (PEvans - lounge)
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 31

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

Sunday, November 3

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Membership Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- WestConnect (LMiller - 309)
- WestConnect Youth (BBloodworth-211)
- WestConnect (KReynolds - 312)
- WestConnect (CBuchanan - 313)
- WestConnect (EStevenson - 213)
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 1:30p Nominating Committee Meeting
- 4:00 First Steps Music Class 1
- 4:30 Evening Fall Vespers
- First Steps Music Class 2
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Group Dinners
- WestConnect (HDorr - 213)
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | October 27, 2024 | No. 28

From the Pews, Christopher Hanson

Back in college, I went on a Fall retreat every year with an on-campus Christian organization. Going on the retreat required little “investment” – typically, showing up on a Friday morning to meet a yellow school bus that would whisk our group away to a Christian retreat center in the wilds of Connecticut or New Hampshire. The trip required minimal preparation on my part, mainly throwing some clothes and my Bible in a backpack. Despite this lack of investment, the Fall retreat rewarded me handsomely every year – filling me with the Holy Spirit, uniting me in community with fellow Christians, displaying the wonders of God’s beauty, and providing a respite from the busyness back on campus.

Since moving to Greenville in 2021 and joining Westminster, I have gone on similar retreats. My husband, Blake, and I joined fellow pilgrims on the Civil Rights bus tour of Alabama last August, and I attended the Men’s Retreat at Montreat this April. Both retreats were like my college experiences – little investment, high reward. In Alabama, Blake and I forged deep, intergenerational relationships while learning about the darkest chapters in our nation’s and faith’s history. And, we all know the magic that is Montreat.

But, now reflecting more deeply on my college and Westminster retreats, I realize that this “little investment, high reward” narrative is a false one. There was a lot of investment on the front end – before ever stepping foot on a yellow school bus or crossing the cobblestone entrance gate of Montreat. In college, I often spent the night before the retreat burning the midnight oil writing a seminar paper or tackling a problem set that I would not have time to work on over the weekend. I often showed up to the bus exhausted having invested in the work that needed to be done so I could spend three days away from campus. In going to Alabama, Blake and I both had to save a coveted vacation day and finish work assignments and meetings in advance of taking off that Friday and weekend. We even had to complete assigned readings ahead of time – thanks, Leigh.

Reaping the spiritual and meaningful benefits of the retreats required investment – in the form of time, energy, commitment, and love. The same is true for Westminster as a whole, not just our church retreats. These investments as well as our gifts to the church are necessary to continue to sow the seeds of faith and to be diligent stewards of our families, Greenville, the Upstate, and beyond. And, that is why Blake and I are increasing our pledge to Westminster this year. It is not an “investment” to reap rewards – but it is a commitment of love to God, to one another, and to you.

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!

EVENING FALL VESPERS

Evening Fall Vespers, formerly November Nights, will gather for an evening vespers service only at 4:30p in the sanctuary on November 3 and November 10. Join us for a service of singing and praying the Psalms. In lieu of dinner and program following, we encourage groups to gather for dinner and fellowship on their own! WPCYG and Youth Choirs will keep their regular schedule on 11/3 and 11/10. Contact Nick Carson if you have any questions.

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 through the month of October.



Adult Sunday School (October 13-November 3)

The Biblical Roots, Political Realities, and Presbyterian Response to the Israel-Palestine Conflict

The crisis that has culminated in yet another war in Gaza and Israel has deep roots, not only in 20th century geopolitics, but throughout the pre-modern era. Questions about Israel and Palestine spill over into American politics, modern college campuses, and the Christian imagination, each requiring knowledge beyond headlines. Join us in this unified adult Sunday School class to consider Biblical questions about statehood, animating theological concerns, and the modern conflict alongside leading scholars and denominational leaders.

In Room 209 and Streaming:

October 27 and November 3:

Dr. Jim Guth, Professor of Politics and International Affairs and frequent contributor to national news outlets

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