



Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help, in all our uncertainties your guidance, in all our dangers your protection, and in all our sorrows your peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. 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 Butler Mullins

Prelude *Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works* Farlee

* Call to Worship Psalm 133

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: **It is like the precious oil on the head.**

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

People: **For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 403 *"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"* UNSER HERRSCHER

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we know we have lived for ourselves and not for you.

You ask us to love our neighbor, but more often than not, we stand in judgment of our neighbor.

You ask us to welcome the stranger, but far too frequently, we ignore the stranger.

Instead of trusting your power to reorder our lives and create us anew, we cling tightly to the status quo.

Forgive us, gracious Lord.

Grant us humility for the sin we fail to see.

Change us into the disciples you have created us to be.

Let your generosity and grace guide all our actions, so that we may embody the love of Christ and share the hope of Christ.

It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

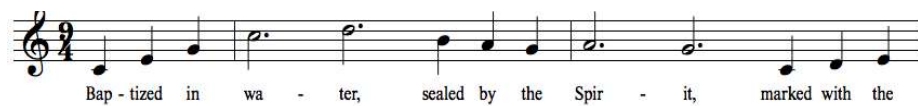
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* 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 *9a* Avery Lee Boyce
11:15a James Alvin Martin & Kimberly Cabaniss Martin

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
Epistle Lesson, *Romans 14:7-12* p. 923
Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 20:1-16* p. 801

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *"The End of the Line"*

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.

Call to Prayer, Hymn 654 *11:15a* "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" Taizé

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* *A Bridge Called Faith* (with "What Wondrous Love") Gramann

Offertory *11:15a* *Jubilate Deo* Anglea

* 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

Recognition of New Members *11:15a*

* Hymn 372 *"O for a World"* AZMON

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Rejoice in the Lord* Mansfield

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Susan Grier (9a), Trey Morrow (11:15a), *sponsors*

Deb Wiswell (9a), Ingrid Erwin (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Chancel Bells (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Trey Morrow, Mandy Pruitt, Elizabeth Timmons,

Sam White, Creighton Likes (9a), *greeters*

Ingrid Erwin, Ben Bloodworth, Emily Cole,

Roger Gower, George McLarty (11:15a), *greeters*

Manning Dailey (9a), Ella Heegard, Ellie Kathryn King (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

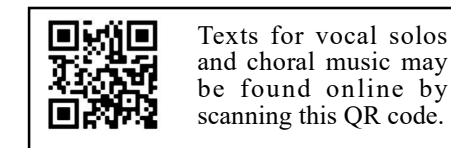
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.

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 Avery Lee Boyce, daughter of Mark & Lindsey Boyce.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship James Alvin Martin & Kimberly Cabaniss Martin.

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, November 17. 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.

THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

On Thanksgiving morning, we are partnering with Church Without Walls to help distribute meals. Share in the spirit of gratitude by helping deliver pre-cooked meals to neighbors around Greenville. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nick Carson to sign up.

WESTFEST XII 5-7P

Join us for the twelfth annual WestFest from 5-7p in the main parking lot. We'll have live music from Trey Duncan Sings and food from the Spinx Cluk Truck and Local Pie Pizza. Kick off Advent with your church family for one of our most beloved traditions!

2024 PLEDGE UPDATE

As of the end of October, we are over 80% through the year, and have received 67% of pledges made for 2024. Please check your quarterly giving statement to see where you stand with your 2024 giving. Thank you for your generosity with Westminster!

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, November 18 at 7p. Dianne Scherer will lead the discussion of selections from *These Precious Days: Essays by Ann Patchett*. All are welcome. The particular selections for discussion are *Three Fathers, The Worthless Servant, How to Practice, These Precious Days*.

GREENVILLE HOMELESS ALLIANCE

The Greenville Homeless Alliance (GHA) invites you to participate in training and education around local collective solutions to homelessness on Sunday, November 17, from 5-6:30p in Room 209. This is a follow up to the recent Sunday School class on the housing crisis. Participants will hear from a person who has experienced homelessness, an elected official, nonprofit on the frontlines, and Susan McLarty, Director of GHA. Dinner will be served. Join us to kick off National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week from November 17-23.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, November 20, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

ADVENT WREATH-MAKING

All ages are invited to gather for a special Advent Wreath-Making Sunday School Hour on Sunday, December 1, at 10a in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for all generations to come together, create, and reflect on the season of Advent. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or new to wreath-making, we'll provide all the supplies you need to make a beautiful wreath for your home. Parents, please plan to stay with your children as we create together in this fun and meaningful activity. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends, loved ones, and a spirit of creativity! We look forward to celebrating this Advent season with you.

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

WPC's Creation Stewardship group will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, November 17 at 9a in Room 211. All who are interested in the care of God's creation are invited to participate.

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. Sign up on the website by December 1 to secure a spot!

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).

WOW SOCIAL TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 6P

Join us for our monthly Happy Hour Social at Hoppin' Greenville (120 N Markley St, 29601). Come enjoy being with your WOW friends.

CHANCEL BELLS

Chancel Bells is a newly gathered music ensemble at WPC. It meets periodically on two consecutive Tuesday evenings to prepare a piece to present in worship at the 9a service. Prior bell ringing experience is a plus, but not required. Music reading proficiency is necessary to participate. If you would like to be kept apprised of opportunities to ring, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

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

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
November 17-24, 2024

Sunday, November 17
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00a Chancel Bells Rehearsal
9:00 Worship Service
Creation Stewardship Meeting
New Member Class
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 New Member Reception
12:30 Stated Session Meeting
3:00 Young Adults Oyster Roast
4:00 First Steps in Music Class 1
4:30 First Steps in Music Class 2
5:00 Middler Youth Group
Greenville Homeless Alliance Training Class
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Group Dinners
WestConnect (HDorr - 213)
6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, November 18
7:00p Theology Reading Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, November 19
12:00p AI-Anon Meeting
6:00 Women of Westminster Social
Men of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 20
9:30a Weekday Chapel
12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
2:15 It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, November 24
Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
4:00p First Steps in Music Class 1
4:30 First Steps in Music Class 2
5:00 Middler Youth Group
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Group Snack
& Hot Cocoa Bar
6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | November 17, 2024 | No. 31

From the Pews, Ben Alexander

Albert Einstein allegedly said "compounding is the eighth wonder of the world -- he who understands it, earns it; he who doesn't, pays it." I once tried to teach this timeless investment principle to my nameless daughter, by setting her up with a custodial investment account and a credit card. Three years later, the money remained uninvested and a substantial portion moth-eaten by inflation. To make matters worse, I was locked out of the account because she was no longer a minor. To this day, I still haven't gotten my money back. Major parenting fail.

But perhaps I expected too much. Perhaps Einstein's investment principle can only be learned through lived experience. I mean, who among us didn't make minimum payments on our first appliance purchase only to find years later that our total balance had barely budged? And, conversely, some of us may know folks who took an early interest in saving and investing and now earn more on their money while they sleep than they do working their day job. Perhaps it is not until we reap the consequences of our investment decisions that Einstein's investment principle is fully understood.

The truth is we make investment decisions every day as we prioritize and allocate scarce resources of our time, talents, money and other treasures. Some of our investments prove better than others. As I finish my long runs on Saturdays, I am encouraged by the small but consistent investments I have made in my health. Having now survived two Parent's Days at two different colleges, I am incredibly tired but satisfied with the investments we made in our daughters' education. When I am at the Grateful Brew on Friday night with my wife and best friend, I am grateful for the investments we have both made in our marriage and our friendship.

But fisherman rarely discuss the fish that got away. Rest assured, my life has plenty of underfunded and unfunded accounts and the consequences of those investment decisions are all around me. But there is another timeless investment principle that gives me solace: "The best day to begin to invest is yesterday; the next best day is today."

Daily we are given the opportunity to begin investing or to reallocate our investments to things that truly matter. Our stewardship campaign is one such opportunity. The work of WPC is important. Its impact is profound. The return on our investment immeasurable. Join us as we invest in God's work at WPC.



As he lay swaddled in the manger, Jesus received three gifts from the wise men. To mark the surprise, delight, and joy of that morning two millennia ago, it has been the practice of Christians to exchange gifts with one another on Christmas morning, a tradition that connects us to our past and to generations and communities who have gone ahead of us. Westminster is proud to host the Second Annual Magi Market at Pleasant Valley Connection on Saturday, December 14. Members of Westminster are asked to help provide gifts to stock the shelves of our one-day toy store. Children will receive three gifts (one small, medium, and large) and a stuffed stocking. Each family goes home with a Christmas book and game or puzzle of their choice. We need volunteers to help set up the store, provide hospitality as families shop for gifts, and break down after all the shopping has ended. Find out more about the Market by scanning the QR code above or contact Carrie Marguet (carriemarguet@gmail.com).

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!

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

- December 1 *First Sunday of Advent*
Advent Market opens in the Sanctuary Atrium
(open every Sunday in Advent)
WestFest XII (live music, food trucks)
5-7p in the Main Parking Lot
- December 8 *Second Sunday of Advent*
Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon
12:30p in the Fellowship Hall
Cherub Choir Christmas
4p in the Sanctuary
- December 14 Magi Market at Pleasant Valley Connection
- December 15 *Third Sunday of Advent*
9a Worship in the Sanctuary
Children's Musical
11:15a in the Sanctuary
- December 22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
The 64th Annual Service of Lessons & Carols
One Worship Service at 11:15a in the Sanctuary
reception preceding service in Sanctuary Atrium
- December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
4p and 6p in the Sanctuary
- December 29 One Worship Service
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WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL TERM
NOVEMBER 10-DECEMBER 8

Unpacking "I AM:" Jesus' Self-Revelation in the Gospel of John

Leigh Stuckey
Room 209 and Streaming

In the Gospel of John Jesus boldly proclaims his identity: the bread of life, the light of the world, the sheepdoor, the resurrection and the life, the good shepherd, the way, truth, and life, and the true vine. Each saying reveals something new of Jesus' character. Join Leigh for a series of lively lectures exploring the context and abiding legacies of Jesus' "I AM" statements.

**Aging Gracefully
Room 212**

You've heard it before – growing old isn't for sissies! We have questions, and we've gathered a group of experts to share information about four aspects of aging gracefully: where to live, how to make healthcare decisions, legal and financial planning, and funerals. Join us during Sunday school Nov. 10 through Dec. 1 to gather information and resources, whether you're making decisions for yourself, a family member, or a friend. Contact Terri Price with questions.

November 17 – The Gift – Making Decisions for Yourself

What does medical care look like as we near the end of life? How do we talk with family about medical treatment? Who should make decisions for us? What are palliative care and hospice? Why are these conversations important?

Dr. Jim Davis, *Center for Success in Aging*
818-523-7001 (c) jdavis5109@sbcglobal.net

Elizabeth Scarpa, hospice liaison, *Agape Care*
864-230-1491 (c) elizabeth.scarpa@agapecaregroup.com

Our Vision:

*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:

*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:

*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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Our Vision:

*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:

*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:

*Connect
Serve
Grow*