Sunday, January 12, 2025 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | 9a and 11:15a



Baptism of the Lord **Preparation for Worship**

Eternal God, you sent your Holy Spirit at the baptism of Jesus, revealing him as your beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and Spirit, faithful in your service, that we may rejoice at your claim and call in our lives, loving our neighbors in your holy name. 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.

Come, Christians, Join to Sing Prelude arr. Jones

* Call to Worship Ephesians 2:8, 10

By grace we have been saved through faith. Leader:

And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God. People:

We are what God has made us,

created in Christ Jesus for good works. Which God prepared beforehand

People: to be our way of life.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hvmn 409 "God Is Here!" ABBOT'S LEIGH

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God.

in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,

making us part of the body of Christ.

We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,

separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.

We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,

and are reluctant to welcome the stranger.

We allow the past to hold us hostage,

and are scared of who you are calling us to be.

In your loving kindness, forgive us,

and set us free from our sin.

Remind us of the promises you make in baptism,

so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

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.

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. Isaiah 42:1-4

p. 584 Gospel Lesson, Luke 3:21-22 p. 834

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

Sermon "Before He Began His Work"

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

The Lord be with you. Leader: And also with you. People: Leader: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord. People:

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

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory 9a Be Thou My Vision arr. Love 11:15a The Beauty of This Sacred Place Bierv

* Doxology, Hymn 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

* Hvmn 500 "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread" St. Flavian

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude Rigaudon Campra

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching

Mary Kathleen Duncan, liturgist

Carroll Farmer (9a), Bob Dellert (11:15a), scripture readers

Nancy Smith, *quest organist*

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jacob Barker, head usher

Ben Dillard, Bill Holt, Anne Howson,

Zach Freeman, Susan Robbins (9a), greeters

Susan Grier, Kathryn Freedman, Ben Bloodworth,

Emily Cole, Elizabeth Timmons(11:15a), 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.

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.

SPRING SERMON SERIES

The World Turned Upside Down: Exploring the Gospel of Luke

In some ways, Luke is the most wellknown and beloved of the four Gospels. Only in Luke do we hear about shepherds at Christmas, the parables of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, and the Easter story of the road to Emmaus. Luke is a Gospel with prominent themes of table fellowship, forgiveness, and joy. At the same time, some of the most challenging words and parables of Jesus are found in Luke-teachings that deal with repentance, money, and lost opportunities to live for God. Our sermon series this spring will explore Luke, and the "upside down" kingdom of God that Jesus preaches in this Gospel. Our subject this week is the baptism of Jesus.

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.

Announcing the 2025 Heritage

HERITAGE LECTURE - 2025

Lecturer, the Reverend Dr. Hunter Farrell. Join us on Sunday, February 23, to hear Dr. Farrell preach at both 9a and 11:15a. He will also lead the adult Sunday School class. Farrell previously served the PCUSA as Director of World Mission, and is presently the Leader of World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is also the author of several books including Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, January 16, we will hike at Croft State Park, near Spartanburg. Contact Joey & Polly Fievet (joey.fievet@gmail.com) if you plan to hike or have questions.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, January 20 at 7p. Bill Holt will lead the discussion of The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing, by Larry Rasmussen. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. Our next gathering will be Saturday, January 25, at 6:30p at the home of Ron & Sherry Tate (207 Camille 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!

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 two- and three-year olds and adults to experience together. The next class will be offered from 4-4:30p and 4:30-5p beginning on Sunday. February 2. Click here to register or contact Diana Dailey for more information.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, January 15, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (1maryanncox@gmail.com).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, January 14

- Circle 3, at the home of Susan McLeod (26 W. Seven Oaks Dr) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).
- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Contact: Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

WPC's Creation Stewardship group will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, January 19, at 9a in Room 211. All who are interested in the care of God's creation are invited to participate.

VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT HOST

Please consider signing up to volunteer at Project Host in 2025. This is a great opportunity to serve our community with other members of Westminster. Four volunteers are needed every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. During this time, you will prepare a nutritious lunch, serve the patrons, and clean up after lunch service. Please sign up at https://wpc-online.org/events-registration. Contact Susan Clark at 864-982-4130 or susanhunterclark@gmail.com for more information.

THE SESSION

The Class of 2025

Jacob Barker Nikki Grumbine
Marian Carpenter Bill Holt
Lindsey Donlan Ginny Reed
Carroll Farmer Jordan Smith
Zach Freeman Tom Vanderbloemen
Susan Grier Parks Workman

The Class of 2026

Ben Bloodworth
Emily Cole
Ingrid Erwin
Roger Gower
Amy Hawkins
Anne Howson
George McLarty

Walker Miller
Stan Pendergrass
Betsy Raines
Jeff Reynolds
Susan Robbins
Zach Weaver

The Class of 2027

Ben Dillard	Creighton Likes
Vill Edwards	Carrie Margue
Kathryn Freedman	Trey Morrow
<i>1ary Gentry</i>	Mandy Pruit
Claire Gilliland	Elizabeth Timmon:
George Howell	Sam White, Ji

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2310 Augusta Street Greenville, South Carolina 29605 (864) 232-2424 www.wpc-online.org

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Associate Pastor

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Lauren Slingerland

Associate Pastor lslingerland@wpc-online.org

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Marlon Hurst
Director of Music

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Todd Monsell

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Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS January 12-19, 2025

Sunday, January 12 Baptism of the Lord

9:00a	Witness & Service Committee	
	Meeting	
	Worship Service w/communion	1.1
10:00	Sunday School	th
	Confirmation Class Meeting	C1 1
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting	
11:15	Worship Service w/communion	
4:30p	Baptism Class	
5:00	Middler Youth Group	_
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal	

6:00 Youth Group Dinners 6:30 Senior High Youth Group Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, January 13

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 14

12:00p	Al-Anon Meeting
	Finance Committee Meeting
2:00	Circle 3 Meeting
7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 15

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

Thursday, January 16 10:00a Bible Study

5:00p New Member Event at Hoppin' 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, January 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a	Worship Service
	Library Committee Meeting
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
12:30p	Stated Session Meeting

No WPCYG and Youth Choir Rehearsal

Our Vision: Open Minds

Open Hearts

Our Pillars: Hospitality Generosity

Justice Imagination Joy

Our Goals:

Connect Serve Grow

the

HARBINGER

VOLUME LXXVII | January 12, 2025 | No. 40

From the Pews, Katie Reid

When my daughter, Ruthie, was baptized, she was just over a year old and sported a sour attitude to match her double ear infection. Additionally, my older son, Marshall, had come down with croup a few days before and had the energy that only prednisone can elicit. And while my husband's immune system seemed to shine, I battled shingles - on my forehead. We were a sight to behold - forever memorialized in the church pictorial directory if you need a good chuckle. During the baptism, Ruthie refused to smile, and Marshall used my wrists for jungle gym equipment. I silently pleaded for my skirt to remain in its appropriate position regardless of the 4 year old medicated gymnastics happening at my ankles. My eyes smiled and seeked forgiveness for our "less than" display. I tried to focus on Pastor Ben's eyes and all the "we will(s)" and "we will with God's help" responses that are a tremendous part of our parental witness.

Jesus' baptism at face value could not seem more opposite than our illness-ridden occasion. Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, in the Jordan River. Upon immersion and prayer, the heavens open up and the Holy Spirit descends in bodily form as a dove. And then God, the Father Almighty, speaks words of adoration reminiscent of promises foretold in the Old Testament: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Imagine being a witness on the riverbanks for that!

Jesus' baptism and inaugural event into his rabbinic ministry is such a divine occasion to seal such love. And God offers this same adoration to us - witnessed or received first hand at each baptism and beyond. Through the chaos of the world, past, present, and future, God tears open the heavens to share his deep, deep love of his children even still today.

My family stood (wrestled?) at the front of the sanctuary as Ruthie received the blessing of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through Ben's sprinkling. Witnessing Ben's charge and blessings, I started to feel myself smile a real smile. My body relaxed. And through the congregational response, I felt the love and light of the heavens shine down upon us, regardless of the less than perfect performance of my family. The next time you sing and hear the baptismal praise, may you be reminded of the gravity and joy of receiving God's unconditional love.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King, born of the Spirit, we are God's children, joyfully now God's praises we sing. PANCAKE LUNCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 HOSTED BY MEN OF WESTMINSTER

On Sunday, February 2, 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 Clay Smoak at gcsmoak3@gmail.com.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 26, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2025 budget, to vote on the 2025 terms of call for the pastoral staff, to elect 13 elders to the Session, and 1 trustee. The nominees for elder are Bill Ballinger, Denise Broderick, Coleman Dixon, Pam Evans, Mary Mac Fairey, Blake Hoffman, Nancy Johnson, Mike Peters, Tim Reed, Stephen Ridgeway, Tony Threatt, Amanda Warren, and Tiffany Williams. The nominee for trustee is Sallie White.

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION

Our goal is to provide elements for communion that all are able to consume. It is an act of hospitality mirrored in God's hospitality inviting us to the table. 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.

> WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL TERM JANUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 9, 2025

I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting: A Brief Tour of Heaven and Hell

Ted Gentry Room 209 and Streaming

Drawing on scripture, history, theology, and the occasional first-hand account, this course will consider what Presbyterians believe about the afterlife, some of the reasons for those beliefs, and the many questions that remain unanswered.

The Text This Week

Leigh Stuckey Room 212

Join us for an in-depth exploration of the texts being preached each week. We will explore the Gospel of Luke. The class is lecture-style and will be recorded.

Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on the 100 hall in the following classrooms:

> K-1st Grade **Room 109** Movie Room 2nd-3rd Grade Room 112 4th-5th Grade

Nursery is available for infants through 4K on the Mezzanine level. During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

PANCAKE LUNCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 HOSTED BY MEN OF WESTMINSTER

On Sunday, February 2, 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 Clay Smoak at gcsmoak3@gmail.com.

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