



Third Sunday after Epiphany
Preparation for Worship

“If our Christianity has ceased to be serious about discipleship, if we have watered down the gospel into emotional uplift which makes no costly demands...then we cannot help regarding the cross as an ordinary everyday calamity...We have then forgotten that the cross means rejection and shame as well as suffering...this notion has ceased to be intelligible to a Christianity which can no longer see any difference between an ordinary human life and a life committed to Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Tom Vanderbloemen

Prelude

"Air" from *Second Suite*

Mouret

* Call to Worship

Psalm 90

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader: A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past.

People: **So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 33

"Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show"

LLANFAIR

* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, forgive us for living in our fears instead of following you in faith.

We love what we already know:

old habits, familiar faces, traditions that take us through our days.

Yet you call us to new people and places we have yet to know.

You ask us to die to the old life and rise to the new, but we are reluctant to let go.

Have mercy on us, Holy One, and shower us with your grace.

Give us courage to follow you without knowing the destination, to obey you even when we do not understand,

and to love our neighbors no matter what cross you ask us to carry for them.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, 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

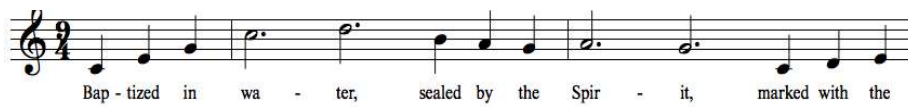
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism 11:15a

Ann Aston Smoak

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

Old Testament Lesson, *Exodus 3:1-6*

p. 44

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 5:1-11*

p. 836

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Catching People"

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 288

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

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

Take Our Lives

Shippey

Offertory 11:15a

Lead Gently, Lord

Cason

* 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 687

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

STANZAS 1-2, ALL; STANZA 3, HIGH VOICES; STANZA 4, LOW VOICES; STANZAS 5-6, ALL

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

March in C

Johnson

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Nick Carson, *liturgist*

Betsy Raines (11:15a), *sponsor*

Susan Robbins (9a), Jennifer Shurley (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Chancel Choir (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jeff Reynolds (9a), Bryan Kelley (11:15a), *head ushers*

Ingrid Erwin, Susan Grier, Ben Bloodworth, Jordan Smith, Parks Workman (9a), *greeters*

Walker Miller, Susan Grier, Ginny Bernard,

Susan Robbins, Anne Howson (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

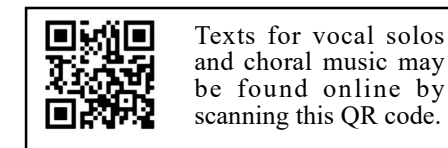
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return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

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.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Ann Aston Smoak, daughter of Clay & Meagan Smoak.

SPRING SERMON SERIES

The World Turned Upside Down:
Exploring the Gospel of Luke

In some ways, Luke is the most well-known 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 call of Jesus' disciples.

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, February 2. 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.

HERITAGE LECTURE - 2025

Announcing the 2025 Heritage 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 *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development*.

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.

MAGI MARKET UPDATE

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Westminster! Magi Market provided gifts for over 100 kids in more than 40 families from the Pleasant Valley neighborhood as well as Soteria and Thornwell. You donated over 400 toys plus books, board games, and blankets for each family. We had more than 75 volunteers help to create the magic. We are truly grateful for your generosity and look forward to the next one. Stay tuned for details in the Fall!

CHANCEL HANDBELLS SEEKING RINGERS

The Chancel Handbell Choir is seeking ringers to ring a piece in worship in February. Rehearsals will be held Feb. 4 and 11 from 6-6:45p and Sunday, Feb. 16, 8a to prepare a piece to ring in the 9a service on 2/16. Ringers must commit to be present for all three dates. Prior handbell ringing experience is helpful but not required, but the ability to read music is required. Participation is open to adults and high school students. The deadline to register for this opportunity is 9 a.m., Monday, January 27.

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.

SOTERIA MEALS

WPC is continuing monthly dinners with the women of Soteria. We are on the schedule to bring/share dinner and participate in fellowship the second Monday of each month. Our next dinner is Monday, February 10, and there are future dates available. Please email Brooke Culclasure at bculclasure@mac.com if you can help.



tacklehunger.org

An estimated 124 million people will watch the Superbowl every year. Imagine what we could do to help end hunger if each person just gave 1 dollar or 1 can. The youth will be collecting donations on Youth Sunday 2/9 during both services. Please consider bringing the following: canned mixed vegetables, hearty soups, individual tuna packets, canned chicken, saltine crackers, rice, apple juices, ramen noodles, peanut butter. Cash donations will also be accepted. Donations will be divided between United Ministries and the Pleasant Valley Free Pantry.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a lunch group for singles and couples, will meet at 12:45p on February 9 at Nic & Norman's (1 Augusta St). Please RSVP to Ruth Johnston at ruthjohnst51@gmail.com by Friday, February 7. Newcomers are always welcome!

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THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
January 26 - February 2, 2025

Sunday, January 26
Third Sunday after Epiphany
8:15a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 Worship Service
Education Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
Confirmation Class Meeting
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p Annual Congregational Meeting
2:00 Incoming Elder Training
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, January 27
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 28
12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, January 29
9:30a Weekday Chapel
2:15p It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 30
10:00a Bible Study
12:00p Zoom Child Protection Training
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, February 2
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
9:00 Worship Service
New Member Class
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p Men of Westminster Churchwide
Pancake Lunch
4:00 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 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 | January 26, 2025 | No. 42

From the Pews, Deb VanderVeer

Luke 5:1-11: Luke is the only gospel that tells the story of a miraculous catch of fish preceding the call.

This is not Simon Peter's first encounter with Jesus. Jesus had already been to Simon's home in Capernaum and had healed his mother-in-law. Perhaps that explains Simon's willingness to let Jesus use his boat as a floating pulpit. (Water by the way is a natural sound amplifier).

Simon had been fishing all night with no success, then working in the early morning cleaning his nets. Most likely, he was exhausted and looking forward to going home and getting some rest. It must have seemed like a bit of an imposition when Jesus got into Simon's boat and asked him to put in out a little way from shore. Never the less, Simon did what Jesus asks.

Luke does not tell us what Jesus spoke about to the crowds that morning. The focus is on what follows – Jesus tells Simon Peter to go out into deep water and let down his nets for a catch. Simon obviously believes this will be a futile exercise. He is a professional fisherman, after all. We can almost hear him respond, "Master, we have worked all night, but have caught nothing." (The lake that Simon fished on was so crystal clear that they only fished at night so the fish did not see the nets. And Jesus is asking him to fish in the morning besides having just fished all night.) But then Simon continues. "Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

We know what happens next – the nets are so full of fish that they begin to break, the boats are so full they begin to sink.

Seeing what is happening, Simon is overwhelmed with fear and wonder, sensing that he is in the presence of divine power. He responds by falling down at Jesus' knees and begging him, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

Simon is caught by surprise. In the midst of his ordinary daily grind and in fact, after a particularly lousy night at work, he is encountered by one who changes everything. Amazed by the power of God displayed in the abundant catch of fish, Simon is immediately aware of his sinfulness and unworthiness. He sees the overwhelming disparity between God's power manifest in Jesus and his own mortal, compromised life.

Jesus responds to Simon by saying, "Don't be afraid, from now on you will be catching people."

Of course, fishing with nets was a matter of catching fish alive, but then the live fish would soon be dead. Here Jesus calls Simon Peter and his partners to a new vocation of catching people so that they might live, a life-giving vocation of being caught up in God's mission of salvation for all.

Although they just brought in the greatest catch of their fishing careers, Simon Peter, James and John leave those boatloads of fish behind and follow Jesus. Their encounter with Jesus has completely reoriented their lives. Jesus encounters Simon Peter as he is, tells him to not be afraid and calls him to a new mission of catching people.

Throughout scripture, we see human sin, failure, and inadequacy are no obstacles to God's call. God calls imperfect people to do God's work, people who are aware of their unworthiness and are often doubting, and resistant to God's call. God doesn't wait for them to shape up. God calls them as they are and then works on shaping them into faithful servants.

How often do we resist Jesus' claim on our lives because what he is calling us to do seems too crazy or too impractical?

For most of us, this will not mean leaving our current profession behind (although we can not rule out that possibility). We are all called by virtue of our baptism to participate in God's mission to the world in Jesus Christ. We are all called daily to reorient our priorities to align with God's, to use the gifts God has given us in service to others, to share the good news of Christ in word and action.

Jesus' mission does not wait until we are ready. The need for the gospel in this broken world is far too urgent. We are called right now – even in spite of our frailty, failure and doubts, even in the midst of our ordinary, busy, complicated lives.

Jesus' word to Simon Peter is a word to us, "Don't be afraid. This is Jesus' mission and we can trust he will keep working with us, and through us, "catching" others as he has caught us – in the deep, wide net of God's mercy and love.

We can trust that the catch is in God's hands, and that God's desire is for the nets to be bursting and the boats full. Praise be to God!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 this 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR VBS SUMMER 2025! WAVES OF WONDER - JUNE 9-13

Let waves of wonder wash over you as you get out into God's creation this summer at VBS, June 9-13! Be inspired by the beauty and majesty of what God has made. At Waves of Wonder VBS, children will explore scriptures in which God provides water for plants and animals. They will visit the wilderness and miraculously receive water from a rock. They will take a boat ride with Jesus and weather a wavy storm. They will even imagine a new heaven and a new earth where all are invited to receive life-giving water. Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children will deepen their understanding of the importance of water and be invited to join God in caring for this precious natural resource. Registration coming soon! Mark your calendar for VBS this summer!

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
2nd-3rd Grade	Movie Room
4th-5th Grade	Room 112

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

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