Sunday, February 2, 2025 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | 9a and 11:15a



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany **Preparation for Worship**

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do I really know myself.

And the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you...

Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost

and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

Gathering and Preparing for God's Word

Welcome and Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Leader:

People: And also with you.

Prelude How Great Thou Art

arr. Monsell

O God, to You We Lift Our Song Introit 11:15a

Brahms Psalm 104

* Call to Worship Bless the Lord. O my soul. Leader:

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty, People:

wrapped in light as with a garment. You set the earth on its foundations, Leader:

so that it shall never be shaken.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! People:

In wisdom you have made them all.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

11:15a Stanza 1, All; Stanza 2, Choristers; Stanza 3, All

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,

we confess that our faith has been feeble

and overshadowed by our fear.

We crave control.

prioritizing our desires over our neighbor's needs.

We pretend that our worth

depends on performance and possessions,

instead of on your gracious promise.

We imagine that we are self-made people,

ignoring our need for your goodness and grace.

Forgive us, Holy One. Let your Spirit rekindle our courage and restore our sight,

so that we would bear one another's burdens,

welcome the stranger,

and stand with those who are desperate and forgotten.

We ask it all in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 Scott Sheffield Rubin Congregational Response Baptized in Water BUNESSAN

God's 11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

prais - es

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, Psalm 107:1-7

Gospel Lesson, Luke 5:17-26

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

Sermon "Up On the Roof"

Responding to God's Word

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

p. 487

p. 836

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.

"Spirit of the Living God" Call to Prayer, Hymn 288 11:15a

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 "Serenity Prayer" from Lamentations Gray Sometimes I Feel Offertory 11:15a arr. Parker/Shaw

* 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

Recognition of New Members 11:15a

* Hvmn 543 "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" GREEN TYLER

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude A Trumpet Fancy Nelson

LIVING GOD

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching Lauren Slingerland, liturgist Claire Gilliland/Trey Morrow (11:15a), sponsors Lee Freeman (9a), Mary-Catherine Riner (11:15a), scripture readers Todd Monsell, organist/pianist Junior & Senior Chorister Choirs (11:15a) Judy McKinney, guitar Rosemary Hughes, flute Jondra Harmon, quest soloist Jacob Barker, *head usher* George McLarty, Walker Miller, Stan Pendergrass, Zach Weaver, Jeff Reynolds (9a), greeters Ben Bloodworth, Susan Robbins, Bill Holt, Zach Freeman, Ben Dillard (11:15a), greeters Ella Heegard (11:15a), acolyte

WORSHIP NOTES

VOCAL SOLOIST

Jondra Harmon, mezzo-soprano, is a former member of the acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble. She has been featured in productions with Opera Carolina, Kentucky Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Washington National Opera, and The Lyric Opera of Chicago. She has been an avid recitalist and oratorio soloist singing Handel's Messiah, Durufle's Requiem, Mozart's Requiem and more. She resides in Richmond, Virginia, and is currently completing her Doctorate of Musical Arts at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

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.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Scott Sheffield Rubin, son of Matt & Molly Rubin.

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@wpconline.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

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 faith and desperation

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 threeyear olds and adults to experience together. The next class will be offered from 4-4:30p and 4:30-5p beginning this 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!

SING WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

The Chancel Choir, a part time choir for adults, will lead in the 9a worship service on Sunday February 16. Rehearsals will be held February 4 and 11 from 7-7:45p in the choir room. Participation is open to all who desire to sing in a choir but who cannot commit to a weekly rehearsal schedule. To participate, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will hike the Brushy Creek section of Conestee Naturé Preserve on Thursday, February 6. Those wanting to carpool can meet at the church around 12:40p and the hike will start around 1p. Email Karen Martin (kruns212@gmail.com) with questions and to let us know you'll be joining us.

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.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 4, at 6:30p in the church library. Do Kaiser will review Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder which is classified as a nonfiction biography. The book traces the life of physician and anthropologist Paul Farmer with particular focus on his work fighting tuberculosis in Haiti, Peru, and Russia. All are welcome to attend.

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!

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, February 17, at 7p. We will VIEW and discuss a portion of the Martin Doblmeier documentary film, Sabbath. Pat Shufeldt is in charge of the program. All are welcome.



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.

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

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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS February 2-9, 2025

Sunday, February 2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service New Member Class Sunday School WestConnect (Miller - 213) WestConnect (Reynolds - 312) 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 Senior High Youth Group

Middler Choir Rehearsal Monday, February 3

Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force Meeting

8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 4

Administrative Committee Meeting 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

6:00 Chancel Bells Rehearsal 6:30 Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, February 5

It's Elementary 2:15p 3:30 Cherub Choir resumes 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 6

Bible Study 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, February 9 Youth Sunday

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service

Witness & Service Committee Meeting

10:00 Sunday School WestConnect (Miller - 213) WestConnect (Reynolds - 312) WestConnect (Buchanan - 313) 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting

11:15 Worship Service Scotland Pilgrimage Meeting 12:15p

12:45 Connections Group Meeting 2:00 Incoming Elder Training

4:00 First Steps in Music (Class 1) First Steps in Music (Class 2) No WPCYG and Youth Choir Rehearsal

> **Our Vision:** Open Minds

Open Hearts

Our Pillars: Hospitality Generosity

Justice **Imagination** Joy

Our Goals:

Connect Serve Grow

HARBINGER

VOLUME LXXVII | February 2, 2025 | No. 43

From the Pews, Scott & Susan Clark

Bill Nock was a waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator named the Niagara Special. In January 1945, he jumped out of that plane near the Moselle River in France after it was crippled by flak on the return flight following a bombing mission of an industrial facility at Werminghoff, Germany.

Bill Hughes was a soldier in the 29th Infantry Division. In June 1944, he came ashore at the Dog Green Sector of Omaha Beach in Normandy and subsequently fought with the 29th in the liberation of France in places like Saint-Lô and Brest.

Both men survived the war and returned home to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where they built lives and raised families. Their lives and families intersected when their son and daughter were married. Eventually, they became Poppop Nock and Poppop Hughes to grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In December, we were part of a multi-generational family trip to France. In addition to all of the other sights, charms and tastes of France, we passed through the mountainous Alsace-Lorraine region and in doing so we crossed the Moselle River and later made a pilgrimage of sorts to the bluffs and beaches of Normandy.

When Bill Nock parachuted down over the Moselle, one side was occupied by Germans and the other by the Allies. He was fortunate and landed on the Allies' side. But he was in crisis – alone and a long way from safety.

It is doubtful that you require a full description of the perils that Bill Hughes confronted in Normandy and subsequent campaigns. Standing on Omaha Beach you are struck by the seeming impossibility of the task that those soldiers faced – get off the water, onto that beach, up that hill, all the while you are being shot at by an enemy who is fortified and on high ground. They were in crisis.

When you are in crisis - feeling alone and unsafe or facing what seems like insurmountable challenges – where do you look for help?

For Bill Nock in 1945, being alone meant he had to rely on himself until the help he needed arrived. Ultimately, that help came in the form of a patrol unit from the 3rd Army who found him and picked him up just south of Thionville.

On the beach and on campaign, Bill Hughes had the men in formation to his left, right, front and back on which to rely - those that surrounded him.

Back on the beach in Normandy, our tour guide astutely observed to our assembled family group that if not for each of those men surviving their crisis and earning safe passage through the war, none of us - ages ranging from 19 to 78, in-laws and outlaws would be standing on that beach on December 31, 2024. Some in the group would have been elsewhere while some would never have been at all.

We will all face crisis in our lives. Turns out, how we are able to deal with crisis is important and can potentially have dramatic consequences. The ability to have faith that you are not alone, that God is with you and you will not face any challenge you cannot handle is a blessing for sure. If you do not possess that blessing, that is, if doubts and fear overcome your faith and you find yourself in crisis, what do you do?

Sometimes the help you need finds you and then you are no longer alone and you are reassured and feel safe. Sometimes you can count on help from the people that are already surrounding you in your life – to the left, right, front and back. Those people on that beach. Count on them.

DAVID LAMOTTE CONCERT - FEBRUARY 14

Westminster is hosting acclaimed singer/songwriter from western NC, David LaMotte, on Friday, February 14th from 7-9p in the Fellowship Hall. This event is free (donations accepted at the door) and open to our members and friends. WPCYG will be hosting a dinner before the concert for our older adults (65+) at 6p in room 209. We are able to host up to 50 people. If you would like to join us, please call the church office to sign up.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER APRIL 25-27, 2025

All men of Westminster are invited to the third annual men's retreat in Montreat, NC. Nick Carson, Associate Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$280. Sign up online at wpc-online.org. For more information, contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

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

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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