



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Preparation for Worship

“We repeat, there is nothing that we can do but love, and dear God—please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as well as our friend... We have not yet begun to learn about love. Now is the time to begin, to start afresh, to use this divine weapon.”

Dorothy Day

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.

Prelude *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* Leupold

* Call to Worship Romans 13:8-10

Leader: Owe no one anything, except to love one another.

People: For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Leader: The commandments are summed up in this one word:

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

People: Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 300 "We Are One in the Spirit" THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,
we know that our faith has been feeble
and our love has been thin.
Even though life is not a contest to be won,
we are insistent on keeping score.
We keep track of who deserves what,
we judge the lives of neighbors we barely know,
we measure our own morality on a curve,
and we are slow to show compassion for the poor.**

**Forgive our selfish ways, O God,
and remake our idolatrous hearts.
Give us strength to love the people we are tempted to despise,
and courage to stand with those we wish we could ignore,
so that Christ would be seen within us, among us,
and working through us, for it is in his name 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

Shepherd Boyer Wagner

11:15a

Frank Harrison Kramer

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.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Deuteronomy 10:17-22*

p. 147

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 6:27-36*

p. 838

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Expecting Nothing in Return"

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 *A New Commandment* Tallis

Offertory 11:15a *Ubi Caritas* Duruflé

* 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 366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *The Trophy* Couperin

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Ingrid Erwin (9a), Zach Weaver (11:15a), *sponsors*

Paul Grier (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *piano/organ*

Chancel Choir (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Carroll Farmer, Trey Morrow, Susan Grier,

Carrie Marguet, Sam White (9a), *greeters*

Stan Pendergrass, Betsy Raines, Jeff Reynolds,

George McLarty, Emily Cole (11:15a), *greeters*

Manning Dailey (9a), *acolyte*

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 *Shepherd Boyer Wagner*, son of Ben & Lauren Wagner.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Frank Harrison Kramer*, son of Reed & Harriett-Graham Kramer.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Lidie Jo Stamm*, to Drew & Elizabeth Stamm on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

We Remember in Prayer

Benjie Mills and her family on the death of Benjie's mother, Becky Brown, on Monday, January 27, in Greenville.

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 loving our enemies.

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.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 18

- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Contact: Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, February 19, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, February 20, we will hike the Raven Rock Loop in Keowee-Toxaway State Park. Contact Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com) if you plan to hike or have questions.

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).

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

COLLECTION TOTALS SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

We collected \$1540 and 450 food items. Our beneficiaries are United Ministries and Pleasant Valley Connection's little pantry.




HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS

February is designated as Heart Month, focusing on heart health and cardiovascular disease prevention. What better way to celebrate this initiative than participating in a hands-only CPR class! According to the American Heart Association, about 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

On Thursday, February 27, at 4:30p, a 45-minute class will be held at Westminster in Room 209 and is open to 15 participants (teenagers and adults only). The class will teach basic hands-only CPR (compressions), NOT certification for full CPR training. We also hope to have an AED demonstration and practice as well. Contact Emily Cole (864-612-6185) with questions. To sign up for the class, go to events registration on the website.

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 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!

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

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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www.wpc-online.org

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
February 16-23, 2025**

Sunday, February 16
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Follow & Serve Youth Retreat

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 9:00a | Worship Service |
| | Witness & Service Committee Meeting |
| 10:00 | Sunday School |
| | WestConnect (Reynolds - 312) |
| | WestConnect (Buchanan - 313) |
| 10:55 | Sunday Session Meeting |
| 11:15 | Worship Service |
| 12:30p | Stated Session Meeting |
| 4:00 | First Steps in Music (Class 1) |
| 4:30 | First Steps in Music (Class 2) |

*No Children's Church
No WPCYG and Youth Choir Rehearsal*

Monday, February 17
Weekday School Closed

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 7:00p | Theology Reading Group |
| 8:00 | Narcotics Anonymous |

Tuesday, February 18

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 10:00a | Foothills Presbytery Meeting |
| 12:00p | AI-Anon Meeting |
| 6:00 | Circle 7 |
| | Men of Westminster Board Meeting |

Wednesday, February 19

| | |
|--------|---|
| 12:30p | Luncheon Group Meeting |
| 2:15 | It's Elementary |
| 3:30 | Cherub Choir |
| 4:30 | Junior & Senior Choristers\ |
| 6:00 | WestConnect (Pam Evans - Family Lounge) |
| 7:00 | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal |

Thursday, February 20

| | |
|-------|--|
| 8:00a | Hiking Group |
| 10:00 | Bible Study |
| 6:00 | Women of Westminster Meditation Workshop |
| 8:00p | Narcotics Anonymous |

Sunday, February 23
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Heritage Lecture Sunday

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 9:00a | Worship Service |
| 10:00 | One Adult Sunday School |
| | Confirmation Class Meeting #3 |
| | WestConnect (Miller - 213) |
| | WestConnect (Reynolds - 312) |
| | WestConnect (Buchanan - 313) |
| 10:55 | Sunday Session Meeting |
| 11:15 | Worship Service |
| 2:00p | Incoming Elder Training |
| 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 Open Gym w/snacks |
| 6:30 | Senior High Youth Group |
| | Middler Choir Rehearsal |

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | February 16, 2025 | No. 45

From the Pews, Gaye Sprague

*"...and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again...
Do to others as you would have them do to you...
If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive,
what credit is that to you?"*
from Luke 6: 30-34 NRSV

There it is: the Rule that we call Golden. Some form of this Rule is part of many faith traditions, and even though the members of our church of open hearts and open minds don't agree on everything, I think we'd get 100 percent agreement that the Golden Rule is good. But there it is sandwiched between verses in which Jesus tells us to not pursue our goods if they are taken from us and not to only lend to those from whom we expect to receive. Forgiveness. How simple and how difficult.

The last couple of weeks, I've struggled while thinking about the full demands of forgiveness. Some unintended thoughtlessness. Some larger slight. A borrowed item that a neighbor never returned. It might take work, but we can look to the Golden Rule and work through these. But what about the larger demands of forgiveness? Social and cultural practices that harmed one group of people while we (even though we did not participate directly) profited. True harm to a loved one through a malicious or careless act of another person. Someone taking advantage of us financially. How can we truly not ask for our goods again?

Questions such as "Is true remorse required before forgiveness is expected?" and "Must there be accountability before forgiveness is expected?" were swirling in my head while I was keeping my niece Mary Catherine last weekend. At bedtime she asked me to read *The Sour Grape* by Jory John and Pete Oswald. A sweet little grape perceives multiple slights and becomes a sour grape. He is so sour that he only has one friend left, and that friend is even more sour than he is. Spoiler alert: When the even more sour grape won't forgive the sour grape for a perceived slight, the sour grape realizes how hurtful a lack of forgiveness can be and forgives those he thought had harmed him. He's a sweet grape again!

So how did this delightfully sweet and sour children's book answer my deep theological questions? While it didn't directly address remorse and accountability, we know that we can apply the Golden Rule in any circumstance. The Sour Grape did remind me that the vast majority of forgiveness I should give daily falls into the unintended, thoughtless, and minor categories. Every single day I need to be sure I "Do to others..."

You know the rest.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR A NEW TERM OF ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER!

Classes will meet on February 16, March 2, March 9, and March 16.

On February 23, we will only have one class,
which will be led by The Reverend Dr. Hunter Ferrell,
this year's Heritage Lecturer.

Ruth

Led by The Reverend Ron Shive, retired PCUSA pastor
Room 209 and Streaming

Ruth is a "historical novella" of a young Moabite woman living in the time of the judges, around 1100 BCE. While this is a story that inspires Jews as it is read each year in celebration of the Festival of Weeks, it is not a story that many of us know well. Inspiration though awaits all of us as we take time to study and reflect on this short book of 85 verses. Walter Brueggemann says that Ruth is "a woman who acts decisively to create a future for herself in a patriarchal social context where no good future was on offer for her." The idea of "creating a future where no good future is obvious" might just be worth considering during the difficult days in which we are currently living.

Let Justice Roll Down

led by WPC members, Bill Holt, Gaye Sprague, and Teresa Webster
Room 212

There are many examples of human use of God's creations of air, land, and water that resulted in harm to other humans. Even when we individually did not cause an environmental injustice, what is the Christian response to the results of that injustice and how can we do our best to avoid future such injustice?

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.



2025 Heritage Lecturer

Join us on Sunday, February 23, 2025, to hear the Reverend Dr. Hunter Farrell preach at both 9a and 11:15a worship services. He will also lead a joint Sunday School class at 10a.

Hunter Farrell (doctor of anthropology, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú) is the Senior Teaching Fellow of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's World Mission Initiative (WMI). He worked for over thirty years as a missionary, director of world mission for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and a professor of mission and intercultural studies. He is the co-author, with Baljiedlang Khylllep, of *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility & Co-Development* (InterVarsity Press, January 2022).

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