



Transfiguration of the Lord
Preparation for Worship

“Without forgiveness, there is no future.”
Desmond Tutu

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 *Praise and Thanksgiving* Dale Wood

* Call to Worship Psalm 103

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: **God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

Leader: As the heavens are high about the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear God.

People: **As far as the east is from the west,
so far does God remove our transgressions from us.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, help us to see the world the way you see the world.

We pretend that power and prestige are what matters most,

**when you have told us to prioritize the powerless,
the vulnerable, and those who have no voice.**

We are masters of self-deception,

for we have lived as though the world revolves around us.

Our love has been self-interested,

and our faith has been shrouded in fear.

Forgive us, gracious God.

Give us new eyes to see, new ears to hear, and new hearts to love.

Grant us the courage to be extravagant

**with the love you have shown us and the grace you have given us,
for it is in Christ's 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.**

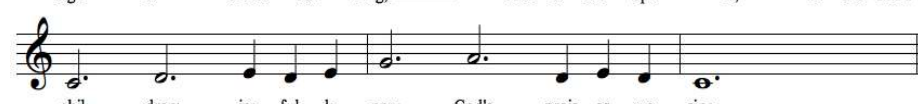
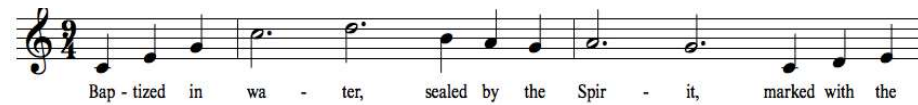
The Sacrament of Baptism 9a

John Robert Riner

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

First Scripture Lesson, *Luke 9:28-36* p. 843

Second Scripture Lesson, *Luke 7:36-50* p. 840

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "An Uninvited Guest"

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 *O Love* Hagenberg

* 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

* Hymn 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" IN BABILONE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* James Mansfield

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Susan Robbins, (9a), Ben Bloodworth (11:15a), *sponsors*

Betsy Raines (9a), Janell Pitman (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Julie Florin, *guest organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir

Ben Bloodworth, *cello*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Emily Cole, Carroll Farmer, Kathryn Freedman,

Betsy Raines, Susan Grier (9a), *greeters*

Carrie Marguet, George Howell, Sam White,

Jeff Reynolds, Parks Workman (11:15a), *greeters*

Virginia Boan (11:15a), *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

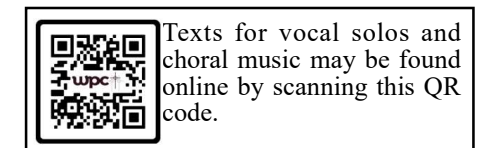
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return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

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *John Robert Riner*, son of Michael & Mary-Catherine Riner.

BAPTISM

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

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Thomas Dixon Amacker*, to Wyatt & Mary-Elizabeth Amacker, on Saturday, November 23, 2024.

We Remember in Prayer

Byron Berry and his family on the death of Byron's mother, Patricia Creech Berry, on Tuesday, February 6, 2025, in Greenville.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Tuesday, February 25, 2025, *Charlie Stoop* and *Ibsen Santos* were united in marriage in New York, NY.

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 forgiveness and the grace of God.

HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, March 6, we will hike the Oppossum Creek Falls Trail. Contact Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com) if you plan to hike or have questions.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will next sing in worship on Sunday, March 9, at the 9a worship service. Rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, March 4, (7-7:45p) in the Choir Room. The Chancel Choir provides opportunities for WPC members and friends to sing in a choral group on an "as available" basis, and all are welcomed to participate! For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER: ANNUAL 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).

NOW HIRING: CHILDCARE PROVIDERS AT WPC

Westminster is currently seeking childcare providers to care for children ages 3 months to 4K during church services and events. Whether you're looking for regular or occasional work, we welcome your interest! If you're passionate about working with children and would like to join our team, please contact Lauren Slingerland for more details and to apply.

- Pay Rate: Starting at \$17 per hour
- Age Group: Children ages 3 months - 4K
- Flexible Hours: Regular and occasional opportunities available

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30p in the church library. Betsy Raines will review *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer. This book delves into the meaning of life, death, the impact of choices we make, as well as how to embrace the limited time we have. It is the story of a young death doula who leads people through a peaceful ending of their lives. One experience leads her to reflect on her own life and decide what she wants out of life. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, March 17 at 7p. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion of *James*, a novel by Percival Everett. All are welcome.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Get ready for a week of fun, faith, and adventure as we explore the "Waves of Wonder" in God's creation through exciting lessons, creative crafts, games, and more! VBS is the perfect place for kids to grow closer to God and make lasting memories.




- Event Date and Time: June 9-13, 9am-12pm
- Ages: Rising K5-5th grade
- Registration Link: www.wpc-online.org Visit the church's website to sign up!

Spaces are limited, and priority will be given to WPC members, so be sure to register early. We can't wait to see your child there as we embark on an unforgettable adventure!

MARCH 16: INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for a special Intergenerational Sunday School on March 16 as we welcome Katie Henderson from Camp Fellowship! Katie will be leading us in a fun and creative session where we'll make crafts, explore the theme of peace, and learn about the amazing opportunities at Camp Fellowship. All ages are welcome!

- **Date:** March 16
- **Time:** 10am
- **Location:** Fellowship Hall

   [wpcgreenville](http://wpcgreenville.com) | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2-9, 2025

Sunday, March 2

Transfiguration of the Lord

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
- WestConnect (Miller - 213)
- WestConnect (Reynolds - 312)
- WestConnect (Buchanan - 313)
- WestConnect (Bloodworth/Fairey - 211)
- 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 Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, March 3

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 4

- 12:00p AI-Anon Meeting
- Administrative Committee Meeting
- 6:00 Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force Meeting
- 6:30 Book Club Meeting
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

- 8:00a Imposition of ashes in Columbarium
- 9:30 Weekday Chapel
- 12:00p Imposition of ashes in Columbarium
- 2:15 It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 6

- 8:30a Hiking Group
- 10:00 Bible Study
- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, March 9

First Sunday in Lent

Daylight Savings Time starts

- 8:15a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 Worship Service with communion
- Confirmation Class
- Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- WestConnect (Miller - 213)
- WestConnect (Reynolds - 312)
- WestConnect (Buchanan - 313)
- WestConnect (Bloodworth/Fairey - 211)
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service with communion
- 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
- 5:30 Women of Westminster Board Meeting
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Mary Frances Knapp

We had the opportunity to attend *Hamilton* at The Peace Center a few weeks ago. Each time I see the show, I feel like I glean something new from the performance. The music - in and of itself - is amazing! The first time I saw it, I was captivated by the songs and the talent with which the cast performed. On subsequent watches, I felt like I was able to understand and follow more of the story through the lyrics. (Spoiler Alerts ahead). My favorite song is *"It's Quiet Uptown."* In one particularly moving scene, the Hamiltons are experiencing and working through an unimaginable heartbreak. When tragedy strikes, the spouses find themselves at a difficult crossroads. Due to a storm of poor decisions, misunderstandings, and wrongdoings, Alexander Hamilton and his wife Eliza are having a hard time finding their way back to one another, amid ultimate despair.

"Forgiveness, can you imagine?"

It is a beautiful scene that culminates when Eliza takes Hamilton's hand, and the audience can understand that she has found a way to forgive his transgressions as they attempt to move forward together.

What does Jesus tell us of forgiveness? Is forgiveness something that is earned? Do we have to prove ourselves worthy of forgiveness? When we know we have sinned, are those not the times that we seek Jesus the most?

When we feel like we have it all together, we may not realize our need for God's grace. The "I've got this" mentality. It may make us feel like we don't need God's forgiveness because we've got it all figured out. But it is when we are at our most vulnerable that we are able to receive the greatest of God's gifts. The Gospel of Luke tells us the story of Jesus and the two debtors. Both debts that were owed are forgiven. However, the person who had the greatest debt was able to appreciate Jesus' forgiveness more. The more we owe, the more we can appreciate the gift of forgiveness that we receive. If we know that we can be forgiven for the very worst of our sins, we love Jesus more because of his unconditional love for us. We can love better because we know Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice so that our sins would be forgiven.

How can we show our love for Jesus? We pass that love on. We show love to our families, our friends, and our church congregations. Most importantly, we show love to those who need to see God's grace the most.

Forgiveness, can you imagine? It is the most beautiful of gifts. The more we are forgiven, the better we can love. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR A NEW TERM OF ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER!
Classes will meet March 2, March 9, and March 16.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins
on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

You are invited to begin this holy season with any of our Ash Wednesday traditions:

8-9a & 12-1p	Prayer and imposition of ashes in the Columbarium In the event of inclement weather, ashes will be offered at the Bell Tower doors.
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6p	Worship service in the Sanctuary
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