Sunday, July 13, 2025 | On Demand on YouTube | 10a



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Preparation for Worship

Lord, hear;
Lord, forgive;
Lord, do.
Hear what we speak not;
forgive what we speak amiss;
do what we leave undone;
that not according to our words, or our deeds,
but according to your mercy and truth,
all may work for your glory,
and the good of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

— Maria Ware (1798)

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 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring Bach

* Call to Worship Psalm 33

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. **People: Praise the Lord with the lyre**;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

Leader: Sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings,

praise God with loud shouts.

People: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 410 "God is Calling through the Whisper" W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

* Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we confess that we think we can save ourselves. We believe that our own actions, accomplishments, and beliefs will justify us, and we hesitate to trust in your mercy. We set out to prove ourselves worthy,

and overlook the worth you have already given us.

We cast judgments on others who think differently than us,

we cast judgments on others who think differently than t and build fences around your grace.

Forgive us, Holy One.

Teach us to loosen our grip on truth, to release our illusions of control,

and open our hearts to the movement of the Spirit. 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

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.

Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Matthew 11:25-30

p. 792 p. 899

Second Scripture Lesson, *Acts 15:3-11*Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Unnecessary Burdens"

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 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

* 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
- * Hymn 837 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude Toccata in Seven

Rutter

SHOWALTER

Mote

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Nick Carson, preaching
Lauren Slingerland, liturgist
Amy Grace, scripture reader
Betsy Raines, sponsor
Benjamin Barker, hammered dulcimer
Ben Edwards, head usher
Zach Weaver, Emily Cole, Pam Evans,
Ben Dillard, Elizabeth Timmons, greeters
Ella Heegard, acolute

WORSHIP NOTES

Benjamin Barker is a Hammered Dulcimerist, Harpist, and Composer based in Greenville. He was the winner of the 2021 National Hammered Dulcimer Championship.

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.

Join Us in Welcoming BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Porter Elia Papapieris*, daughter of Nik & Taylor Papapieris.



Texts for vocal solos and choral music may be found online by scanning this QR code.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

Marriage

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, Cooper Kemp and Caroline Odom were united in marriage in Greenville.

Birth

The birth of a son, Andrew William Rhodes, to Johnny & Lizzie Rhodes, on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

ACTS: CHARACTERS AND CONGREGATIONS

The book of Acts was written by the author of Luke, and the themes in both books echo one another. From the story of Pentecost to Paul's missionary travels, Acts narrates the characters, conflicts, and congregations of the earliest Christian community. Following the success of our Luke series, we will, this summer, preach through the book of Acts, meeting new characters and exploring Paul's journeys, overhearing conflicts around inclusion and ritual, and mapping the lessons that the first church can teach the modern church. This week's theme is gentiles in the early church.

GIVING TO WPC

Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge or give an unpledged gift to Westminster online? Your gift helps our church keep faith with community partners and maintain excellence in our programming. To learn more about online giving, or to make a gift, follow the prompts from the QR code below.



GAME GROUP

Join us Mondays in July at 7p in the Entrance Pavilion for our first series of Mahjong Nights! Open to all who love the game or want to learn it. If you have a game set and would be willing to bring it, please contact Emily Lordo (emilydlordo@gmail. com). See you 7/14 at 7p!

CUBA WITNESS AND SERVICE TRIP **DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JULY 15**

Join us as we visit our Witness and Service partners at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba November 8-15, 2025. During our time together we will learn about the cultural, social, and economic realities of living in Cuba, engage theology with seminary students and professors, and join the seminary in their ongoing library renovation. Contact Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) with any questions and to sign up.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, July 16, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (1maryanncox@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IT'S ELEMENTARY!

WPC's after-school weekly faith formation program, It's Elementary, begins September 3. Each Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-4:30, children in grades 1st-5th will grow in faith, deepening their Bible knowledge and skills, worship and arts experiences, and witness and service learning. Volunteers are at the heart of It's Elementary! No teaching experience required, just helping hands, listening ears, and a joy for children. If you'd be interested in donating your time each week or every other week to this special program, please contact Caroline Blouin (cblouin@ wpc-online.org).

UNITED MINISTRIES

United Ministries is in need of canned food to restock their food pantry. They are requesting: canned fruit, peas, green beans, pasta, beef stew, canned chicken, rice, tuna, jelly, Ramen Noodles, Saltines, and oatmeal. If you would like to donate, please drop off cans in the United Ministries Donations Cabinet located in the Friendship Court.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. We will next meet Friday, July 18, at 6:30p at the home of Mary & Ted Gentry (26 Quail Hill Dr). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's web site ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamilv.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

SOTERIA WOMEN'S HOUSE

We are looking for women to bring dinner to the residents of Soteria Women's House (includes participating in a fellowship hour during dinner with the ladies). Fellowship dinners take place on the second Monday of each month. Please email Brooke Culclasure (bculclasure@mac.com) if you are interested in being added to the informational list.

BINGO NIGHT

WPC Kids presents its 2nd annual Bingo Night! Fun for the whole family! On Wednesday, July 30, from 6-7:30p in the Fellowship Hall, children and their families are invited to a fun night of games, food, and prizes. A hot dog supper will be served. There is no cost, but please register so that we can have an accurate headcount. Look forward to seeing you there!

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS July 13-20, 2025

Sunday, July 13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

No Summer Choir 9:00a Middler Book Club Montreat Pre-Trip Meeting Witness & Service Committee Meeting 9:40 Weekly Session Meeting 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Fellowship with donuts Senior High Book Club

Monday, July 14

7:00pMondays in July Game Group 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, July 15

12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, July 16

12:30p Luncheon Group

Thursday, July 17

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 18

6:30p Lightly Seasoned Group

Sunday, July 20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Senior High Montreat Youth Conference No Summer Choir

9:40

Weekly Session Meeting 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Fellowship with donuts

> Ben Dorr is on sabbatical May 19 - August 10.

Our Vision:

Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:

Hospitality Generosity Justice *Imagination* Joy

Our Goals:

Connect Serve Grow

HARBINGER

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From the Pews, Katie Reid

In sixth grade Sunday School, I was taught a "yoke" was a wooden frame that was placed on oxen to help distribute the weight of the load carried in a wagon. Or similarly, humans could use a yoke frame to help a single person carry heavier loads of water, grain, or other cargo with more ease. My husband and son would probably prefer to turn this into a physics lesson. For us "feelers," I present to you an alternate definition I learned as an adult. A "yoke" in the Jewish tradition of Jesus' time could also describe a rabbi's teachings - a personal connection to a rabbi's interpretation and understanding of the Torah and Jewish texts. Interesting that whether we're talking about oxen or Jewish knowledge, both definitions carry an intimate connectedness. And Jesus tells his listeners through gentleness, that his "yoke is easy; the burden is light."

We can likely all empathize with the weight of a burden. Some burdens feel navigable and others feel heavier than lead. Burdens have existed since long before us. Roman regulations and Jewish laws shaped all communities of Jesus' followers. Jesus' teachings countered their restriction and exhaustion with more than just respite.

In Matthew 11:25-30, Jesus speaks directly to his fatigued people. He doesn't dismiss their journey or pity their circumstances. He empowers them. He wraps them in compassion. He offers rest and perspective unlike any others before them. May we feel that same comfort and embrace as his words and teachings wash over us.

Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- Matthew 11: 28-30