



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

“Who made the world? / Who made the swan, and the black bear? / Who made the grasshopper? / This grasshopper, I mean— / the one who has flung herself out of the grass, / the one who is eating sugar out of my hand, / who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down— / who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes. / Now she lifts her pale / forearms and thoroughly washes her face. / Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away. / I don't know exactly what a prayer is. / I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down / into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, / how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through / the fields, / which is what I have been doing all day. / Tell me, what else should I have done? / Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon? / Tell me, what is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?”

— Mary Oliver, “The Summer 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 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky arr. Monsell

* Call to Worship adapted from Psalm 9:1-2

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart,
tell of God's wonderful deeds.

People: We will be glad and exult in God,
singing praises to the most high!

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 301 "Let Us Build a House" Two Oaks

* Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love.
We have not loved our neighbors,
and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

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

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Leviticus 19:33-34 p. 94

Second Scripture Lesson, Acts 16:11-15, 40 p. 900

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "A Causative Statement"

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 Lord, I Know I Been Changed arr. Shackley

* 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 297 "In Christ Called to Baptize" ST. DENIO

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude Minuet Finale Handel

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Leigh Stuckey preaching

Lauren Slingerland, liturgist

Talitha Allen, scripture reader

Rosemary Hughes, Kathi Hurst, Marlon Hurst, trio

Bill Young, head usher

Ben Bloodworth, Will Edwards, Susan Robbins,

Ingrid Erwin, Stephen Ridgeway, greeters

Mary-Frances Reynolds, Virginia Reynolds, 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.

In Memoriam

Karl Nations
(7/21/1937 - 7/11/2025)

"I am the resurrection and the life."
- John 11:25

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 hospitality and memory.

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.



LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

As we search for a new AV Coordinator, we encourage your spiritual gift of patience with any unintended hiccups with sound or cameras that may occur during this time.

PLEASANT VALLEY CONNECTION
HOMEWORK HELPERS

As we prepare for a new school year to start this fall, we are recruiting Homework Helpers to serve at Pleasant Valley Connection. Homework Helpers meet weekly with a student at PVC to help with homework and practice reading, math, and language. If you are interested in signing up or learning more, email Nick Carson at ncarson@wpc-online.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
IT'S ELEMENTARY!

WPC's weekly after-school 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).

REGISTER NOW FOR
IT'S ELEMENTARY!

It's Elementary, begins September 3. Members may register now through the website and non-members may begin registering on Friday, August 1!

FAITH FORMATION TRAINING EVENT
AUGUST 10, 11A-1P

The Education Committee is hosting a Faith Formation Training Event on August 10 from 11a-1p in the Fellowship Hall. This event is for all members working with Children or Youth during the upcoming program year including WPCYG Advisors and Chaperones, Pleasant Valley tutors, WPC Kids (Sunday School, It's Elementary, Nursery, Children's Church). Lunch and childcare will be provided. Our special guest this year is Leigh Anne Ring, Educator and Minister from Richmond, VA. Contact Mary Kathleen Duncan or Lauren Slingerland for more information.

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!

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.

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!

WESTMINSTER DAY OF SERVICE

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 16, for our annual Day of Service, benefiting our local Witness and Service partners! We'll gather at the church for breakfast before going to our various service sites. Sign-ups coming soon.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

On August 31, we will be hosting a Rise Against Hunger event following 10a worship at 11:15. We will work together to pack over 25,000 meals. This will bring WPC's lifetime meal packing to over 100,000 meals! Sign up by emailing Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org).

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
July 20-27, 2025

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

Monday, July 21
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference
7:00p Mondays in July Game Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, July 22
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference
12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, July 23
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

Thursday, July 24
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, July 25
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

Saturday, July 26
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference

Sunday, July 27
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
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*

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Mike Peters

Today's scripture comes from the book of Leviticus. In it God, through Moses, lays out in great detail how the Israelites should live when they enter the promised land. Chapter 19 has a litany of rules and regulations the Israelites are to follow. Some are paraphrases of the Ten Commandments; some are dietary requirements and health regulations; some describe rituals of sacrifice to the Lord; others describe consideration for the poor, weak, disabled and aged, others sexual mores, personal grooming, and even animal and plant husbandry. And finally, some on dealing with fellow Israelites and even foreigners.

In verses 33-34 the Lord says the following: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as a native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Obviously, treatment of foreigners is an ongoing issue at the national level today. But this is a debate to which one can add little at this point. However, it is worth reflecting on the strangers among us in our local community and even in our church. Are we as welcoming as we could be to those who are foreign to us, perhaps not in nationality, but in race or lifestyle or other circumstances? Are we as welcoming as we could be to strangers who enter our sanctuary to worship with us or engage with us in some other way? Are we willing to make ourselves vulnerable and reach out to a seeming stranger in our pews? Let's admit it; we are all sojourners through this strange land called life. Let us embrace our fellow sojourners regardless of who they may be.