Sunday, August 3, 2025 | On Demand on YouTube | 10a



### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Preparation for Worship

Save us, free us, and sanctify us; be thou, O King of the elements, seated at our helm, and lead us in peace to our journey's quest, with winds that are mild and kind smiling and fragrant. no current, nor whirlpool, no eddy to work harm upon us.

- Ocean Blessing from Prayers of the Western Highlanders

#### 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.

"God's Time Is the Best Time" from Cantata BWV 106 Prelude Bach

\* Call to Worship

Over the wind and the waves. Leader:

People: Christ comes to us.

The storms of life do not have the last word. Leader: Even the wind and waves obey our Lord. People:

As ebbs and flows the tide,

People: we are called to offer all honor and glory

to the Triune God of grace.

All: Let us worship God!

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save" \* Hvmn 8 MELITA

\* Prayer of Confession

God of all life, it seems so easy to get into the boat and set sail on our journey.

Yet when the winds of change begin to blow,

we want to turn around

and head back to the past's safe harbor.

When sin's waves crash over the side,

we try to wrap ourselves in the cloak of pride

thinking we will not get wet.

When Jesus calls to us to get out and follow in faith, we look around, hoping he is not speaking to us.

Swamped by our fears, and sinking in doubt,

we long for someone to help us - so save us, Holy One!

Stretch out your hand,

so we might be lifted from our despair to hope,

from our worries to trust,

from our foolishness to faithful living.

Then, we will dare to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, even if it means getting out of the sheltered lives

we have built for ourselves. 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

First Scripture Lesson. Psalm 89:5-14 p. 475 Second Scripture Lesson. Acts 27:33-44 p. 912

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

"Three Hour Tour" Sermon

#### Responding to God's Word

\* Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Lift up your hearts. Leader:

We lift them to the Lord. People: Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Music During Communion

NETTLETON

"Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven arr. Ferguson \* 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.

\* Praver of Dedication

\* Hvmn 840 "When Peace like a River" VILLE DU HAVRE

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude Fanfare Leighton

\*All who are able may stand

#### Leading Worship this Morning

Mary Kathleen Duncan. preaching Lauren Slingerland, liturgist Eleanor Peters, scripture reader

Summer Choir

Rosemary Hughes, *piano* 

Patrick Barnhardt, Phillip Cox, Creighton Likes, IV, guitars

Elizabeth Palmer, head usher

Claire Gilliland, Mandy Pruitt, Anne Howson,

Mike Peters, Amy Hawkins, greeters

#### **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.

#### With Thanksgiving We Celebrate MARRIAGE

On Saturday, July 26, 2025, Helen Wilson and Stephen Moore were united in marriage at Westminster.



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

#### CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

#### 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 navigating life's storms.

#### 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.



#### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

#### SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir returns to service in August. Sunday rehearsals will be held weekly 9a in the choir room. This is a low-key, low-commitment way to participate in the choir. Adults and youth are invited to join in! For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst.

#### REGISTER NOW FOR IT'S ELEMENTARY!

We're excited to welcome students back to It's Elementary. our afterschool faith formation group for children in 1st-5th grades. It's Elementary meets on Wednesday afternoons during the school year from 2:30-4:30p and runs from September 3-April 29. This year's theme is Grow with God. Through Bible study, crafts, recreation, and games, children will explore how to live out these spiritual fruits in their daily lives. Member registration is currently open on the church's website. Non-member registration opens August 1. We are looking forward to a year of growth and discipleship together! Email Lauren Slingerland or Caroline Blouin (cblouin@wpconline.org) with questions.

#### 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.

#### **GAME GROUP**

The Game Group will continue meeting to play Mahiong on Mondays in August. Join us at 7p in the Entrance Pavilion. This is open to all who love the game or want to learn. Stay tuned for the September schedule.

#### MEN OF WESTMINSTER DRIVE GAME

Join the Men of Westminster for a night at the Greenville Drive on August 27. We've reserved a private suite to enjoy the game. The cost is \$15 per person. Signup on the WPC website under Event Registration.

#### 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. ielly. 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.

#### WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, August 5, at 6:30p in the Library. Ingrid Erwin will review Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi. All are welcome to attend.

#### FAITH FORMATION TRAINING EVENT AUGUST 10, 11A-1D

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.

#### 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 are on the website.

#### CONNECTIONS

Connections, a lunch group for singles and couples, will meet on Sunday, August 17, at Limoncello (401 River Street) at 11:45a after the 10a worship service. Please RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail. com) by Friday, August 15. All are welcome!

#### 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)

#### THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church 2310 Augusta Street Greenville, South Carolina 29605 (864) 232-2424 www.wpc-online.org

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#### **Church Staff**

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Wendy Bagley Secretary wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend Director of Nurseries alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips Building Supervisor sphillips@wpc-online.org

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** August 3-10, 2025

Sunday, August 3

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal Membership Committee Meeting Weekly Session Meeting 9:40 10:00 Worship Service

> Fellowship with donuts Sixth Grade Day (11a-1p Youth Suite)

#### Monday, August 4

11:00

7:00pGame Group Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 5

12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Administrative Committee Meeting

Book Club 6:30

Thursday, August 7

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

#### Sunday, August 10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal Witness & Service Committee Meeting 9:30 Blessing of the Backpacks 9:40 Weekly Session Meeting 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Fellowship with donuts Faith Formation Training Event

> 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**

VOLUME LXXVIII | August 3, 2025 | No. 17

#### From the Pews, Scott & Susan Clark

On Acts 27:33-44, darkness and the way home

Just like Paul, we were once shipwrecked. It wasn't a ship though. And it wasn't a wreck. And we weren't in the Mediterranean. But we did beach a 24 foot center console down at Edisto several summers ago.

It happened like this: Our family of four and our beach rental partner family of five decided it would be a good idea to cruise over to picturesque Botany Bay and enjoy a secluded picnic and day at the beach. Sandwiches were made. Coolers were packed. Sunscreen was applied and the boat was loaded.

Botany Bay has no dock. It was to be an amphibious landing. The instructions were simple. Lance, the boat's captain, told everyone aboard that he would approach the shore and everyone - man, woman, and child - was to jump out of the boat with our provisions and scramble ashore. He would anchor offshore

We approached the beach and it was time to disembark. No one jumped in. It wasn't how everyone had envisioned it. The water was rougher and deeper than it had been in our imaginations.

Negotiations were ongoing when within seconds, the boat was grounded and ultimately tossed up on the beach as the waves crashed in. So we had our picnic and devised a plan and analyzed our mistakes. It was a long day waiting for the tide to go out and eventually come back in. The tide charts put high tide somewhere just beyond midnight when we thought there would be enough water to float the boat and free it from its sandy shackle.

When that time finally came, using a complex combination of anchors, shovels, ropes and bad judgement, we managed to get the boat back to sea. However, in order to avoid the same forces that had put the boat on shore to begin with, Lance had no choice but to abandon the four of us who had assembled to execute the extraction plan. For those of us left on shore, our adventure was seemingly over. Lance's was just beginning.

On a dark, moonless night, Lance had to navigate unfamiliar waters. Reckoning only by the lights on shore, he pointed his bow to a destination he desired but a course he did not know. Such is life. Circumstances, whether they are of your own doing or brought by fate or chance, will sometimes put you in that darkness and on those unfamiliar waters. You know where you want to go. You're not sure how you will get there. In that darkness, you might feel like you are alone on that boat. You're not. You have the love of those who launched you. The love of those who wait for you upon your successful return and the lights that twinkle in the darkness to guide you home.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION TODAY

If you are seated in the main section of pews, you will proceed up the center aisle to receive communion. Please wait for an usher to prompt your row. Please take communion from one of the serving stations at the front of the chancel and return to your pew via the side aisle.

When you come to a serving station, take a piece of bread from the plate, dip the bread in the cup, and eat. All cups contain grape juice.

If you are seated in the transept pews at either side of the sanctuary, you will take communion from the servers at the back of the transept. The section of pews closest to the chancel will go first. Please wait to be prompted by the usher. When prompted, please proceed down the center aisle of the transept, take communion at the back of the transept, returning to your pew via the side transept aisle closest to your pew.

Please remain quiet during communion so that those who wish to pray may do so.

If you would like to receive communion but are unable to come forward, or if you would simply prefer to remain seated, there are two rovers to provide you with communion, one on each side aisle. When the rovers approach your pew, simply raise your hand to indicate that you would like to receive communion in your seat.

The bread we are offering at today's communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sour dough (rice flour, water), rice starch, cornstarch, sugars (rice syrup, caramelized sugar), modified cellulose, psyllium seed husk (vegetable fibre), sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fibre, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour. May Contain: Mustard, Sesame.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR KICK-OFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7.

> 9a Breakfast 10a Sunday School 11:15a Worship

Join us as we kick off the program year, for our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 7, sponsored by the Men of Westminster! Come enjoy delicious pancakes and learn about the many ways to get involved in the ministry of WPC at our Ministry Fair. Breakfast begins at 9a, followed by Sunday School at 10a and Worship at 11:15a. Sign up on the church website at https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/church-wide-breakfast. Cost is \$10/person, with \$40 max per family. Children 2 and younger are free. If you would like to volunteer to help with this breakfast, please contact the church office.

On September 14, we will resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

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