



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

O God, we imagine ourselves self-sufficient and then we run short...short of time, short of life, short of stamina, short of newness. And we find ourselves, surprisingly, back in your presence, waiting instead of acting, receiving instead of making, invited to gratitude instead of success. You are out beyond us. We are staggered, stunned, awed. We did not know you had such futures in you and now we know...You do indeed! Amen.

Walter Brueggemann

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 Holy, Holy, Holy arr. Bennett

* Call to Worship Psalm 139

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up.
You are acquainted with all my ways.

Leader: You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 1 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" NICAEA

* Prayer of Confession
Almighty God,
we confess our reluctance to heed your call.
We prefer the smooth path, the comfortable road,
and a destination that is easy to see.
But you ask us to walk the narrow path, the sacrificial road,
to a destination that only you can see.
Forgive us for being stubborn and stiff-necked
when we respond to your voice.
Remind us anew that your grace is costly
as well as comforting,
and that your love is vulnerable as well as victorious.
Grant us newfound faith and hope,
so that we would trust you with our future,
remembering your faithfulness in Jesus Christ,
through whom 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 Emerson Franklin Sanders

Congregational Response Baptized in Water BUNESSAN



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

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Exodus 3:1-6 p. 44

Second Scripture Lesson, Exodus 3:7-15 p. 44

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Have You Ever Seen a Burning Bush?"

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 Blessings Story

* 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 69 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" HERE I AM

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude To God Be the Glory arr.Schrader

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching

Nick Carson, liturgist

Ben Edwards, sponsor

Mandy Pruitt, scripture reader

Summer Choir

Nancy Smith, guest organist

Rosemary Hughes, flute and soloist

Pam Evans, head usher

Bill Ballinger, Will Edwards, Tony Threatt,

Coleman Dixon, Ingrid Erwin, 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!

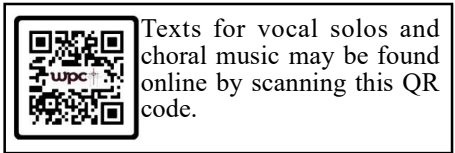
Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

We Remember in Prayer

Jake Rasor and his family on the death of Jake's father, Jake Rasor, Jr., on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, Catherine Wells Buice, to Will & Stacy Buice, on Thursday, August 21, 2025.



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 Emerson Franklin Sanders, son of Corey Sanders & Laura Williams Sanders.

FALL SERMON SERIES:

THE EXODUS STORY:

FAITH, FEAR, & FREEDOM

Our fall sermon series will explore the story of the Exodus: God's liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. It's a story about what it means to be heard by God, saved by God, and called into covenant relationship with God. It's a story of fear and courage, of wandering in the wilderness, of God's transcendence and God's imminence, of what it means to live in covenant community with one another. It's the central salvation story of the Old Testament, and one that echoes throughout the New Testament as well. To help you follow along, we will provide scripture passages to read in preparation for the upcoming Sundays. For the next three weeks, the suggested readings are the following:

Aug 31: Exodus 3:1-15
Sept 7: Exodus 5:1-6:9
Sept 14: Exodus 14

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.



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.

MONDAY GAME GROUP

The Game Group continues to meet Mondays at 7p in the Entrance Pavilion. No meeting Labor Day. Beginning September 8, in addition to Mahjongg, we would love for you to bring a game that you want to play with the group! We will have several different games going on at the same time.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, September 15, at 7p. Lucy Stewart will lead the discussion of *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, by Mariann Edgar Budde, the bishop and spiritual leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the Washington National Cathedral. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, September 2, at 6:30p in the Library. Mary Martha Smoak will review *Five Sisters* by James Fox. All are welcome to attend.

WESTCONNECT SIGN UPS ARE OPEN

WestConnect is a small group ministry of WPC - groups gather for 6-week sessions of bible study, fellowship and prayer. If you are looking to deepen your understanding of scripture, meet new people at WPC, or feel a smaller sense of community, sign up for a WestConnect group. Groups will begin to meet in early October for the fall. If you have questions, reach out to Nick Carson.

WPCYA KIDS PLAYDATE

WPC Young Adults is sponsoring a playdate for families with kids on Saturday, September 6, at 10a at the Downtown Airport Runway Park. Come gather with other WPC families and enjoy fellowship together! Contact Molly Rubin (mhjohnson19@outlook.com) with any questions!

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.

CHORISTER CHOIR REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Junior (grades 1-2) and Senior (grades 3-5) Chorister Choir. Choristers meet weekly on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15p. Under the direction of Hunter Smith and Diana Dailey, Chorister Choir singers learn the fundamentals of beautiful singing, hymns of the faith, and about Reformed worship practice. Rehearsals begin September 3. Visit the WPC Web site to register!

ACOLYTE TRAINING

An acolyte training session for children in 3rd-5th grade will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11:15a worship service on Sunday, September 7. The meeting will last about 15 minutes. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For additional information, please contact Hunter Smith (hsmith@wpc-online.org).

SOTERIA WOMEN'S HOUSE

We are looking for women interested in participating in our monthly dinner and fellowship nights with the residents of the Soteria Women's House. Our next date is Monday, September 8. Please email Brooke Culclasure (bculclasure@mac.com) if you are interested in helping with dinner and sharing in fellowship!

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, at 4:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 31 - September 7, 2025

Sunday, August 31
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH
9:40a Weekly Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Fellowship with donuts
11:15 Rise Against Hunger Event

Monday, September 1
Weekday School Closed
Church Office Closed
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 2
12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
Administrative Committee Meeting
5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting
6:30 Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, September 3
9:30a Weekday Chapel
2:30p It's Elementary Begins
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers Begins
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 4
10:00a Bible Study
12:00p Endowment Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, September 6
10:00a Young Adults Group Kids Playdate at Runway Parkway

Sunday, September 7
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Churchwide Breakfast and Connection Fair
10:00 Sunday School Begins
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
K5 Bible Bags presented
5:00p Youth Choir Rehearsals
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middler Youth Group
Senior High Youth Group

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 12. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Whit Walker

Everyone is occasionally fascinated by videos posted on Instagram or TikTok. It's hard to believe your eyes when you see an infant doing backflips or an oversized tabby cat busting spectacular dance moves. Surely, these visual scenes have to be photoshopped or generated by AI. You're not so gullible that you will click on the link or subscribe to the videographer's channel. Right?

TikTok and Instagram may be poor analogies, but, in this week's scripture lesson from Exodus, we rewind about 3000 years ago to learn about Moses's encounter with a burning bush on Mt. Horeb. Like a bizarre TikTok video, this encounter must have been startling for Moses - a man who was hiding from his past in the desert. But, alone on this cold, dark mountain slope he not only encounters an indestructible bush on fire but incredibly a booming voice emanating from the bush claims that Moses is in the presence of God. And God has chosen Moses to lead a very dangerous mission. Moses must have wondered what tricks his senses were playing on him. He clearly was afraid and very confused.

Moses had many questions for God. He is reticent to undertake this potentially life-threatening task. But, God provides many reassurances that he will guide and protect Moses as he leads the Israelites to freedom from slavery. Moses could still have declined God's instructions. He could have run away. But, he did neither. Maybe he didn't consciously know it at that very moment but Moses had faith. And, faith - as we have learned in this sermon series - leads to courage.

Thus, in the cacophony of today's world, do you believe you can still hear God speaking with you? Do the distractions of family life and professional life, personal problems or addiction to social media prevent you from seeing or hearing the voice of "the burning bush" right in front of you? I believe God converses with us all the time. Especially in quiet moments. I'm grateful that the conversation is not always filled with radical commandments. But, I am grateful to know that often God does speak to us with advice and instruction and with love and comfort. All he asks in return is to open our hearts and minds. To have faith. To have courage. To seek justice. To serve. And to share. We just need to be patient and listen. Like Moses.

Join WPC in Sunday School starting next Sunday, September 7 at 10a.

Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force Report
After a year of study and conversation, the Task Force made its report to the WPC Session and is now eager to share its findings with the congregation. Join us at 10a for a combined adult Sunday School featuring lively conversation about Westminster's past, present, and future.

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

Nursery is available for infanct through 4K on the Mezzanine level.
During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

Children Sunday School Class Locations
Shine Curriculum – 5K/1st (Room 109)
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)
4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth on Sunday Mornings

Middlers will meet each week during the Sunday School hour in the Youth Suite. Facilitated by Claire & Mac Gilliland, this class will study the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum.

Senior Highs are invited to join our Senior High WestConnect that will begin in October and is facilitated by youth elders, Ben Bloodworth and Mary Mac Fairey. On Sundays when Senior High WestConnect is not meeting, older youth are more than welcome to join the Middler class.

Adult Sunday School
September 14–October 12

Faith and Politics: Christian Nationalism and Faithful Christianity
Led by Bryan Bibb, *Professor of Religion Furman University*
Room 209 and Streaming

details to come

Lectionary Discussion Class:
Room 212

Join us each week for a discussion-based Sunday School class to dive into a weekly topic and scripture passage. All are welcome to join us on a journey of faith and fellowship – come every week or come when you can. Topics change every week, and the class is facilitated by rotating members.

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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. Proceeds from the breakfast will go to support the Women of Westminster Scholarship Fund. If you would like to volunteer to help with this breakfast, please contact the church office.

On September 14,
we will resume worship services
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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

In response to the floods in Texas and North Carolina this summer, Witness and Service has made a contribution to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance US Flood Response fund. Join our response by making a donation to Westminster designated for PDA, or donate to PDA fund DR000191 directly!

CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE:
WASHINGTON DC
SUMMER 2026

We are excited to announce our next Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Washington DC in the Summer of 2026. Focusing on faith in the civic sphere, we will have an opportunity to worship at the National Cathedral, visit the National Museum of African American History, the Holocaust Museum, DC's major monuments, and the Frederick Douglass National Monument. You'll also have time to explore the city on your own. To learn more and offer feedback, please join us for an informational meeting on September 14th in the Charter Room following worship.

YOUTH CHOIR REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Youth Choir (Middlers, grades 6-8 and High School, grades 9-12). This year, both Middle and High school choirs will rehearse weekly on Sundays from 5-6p. In addition to singing in worship monthly, additional activities are planned, including ice skating and Christmas caroling in December. Rehearsals begin September 7. Visit the WPC Web site to register!

MEN OF WESTMINSTER SERVICE DAY
WITH REBUILD UPSTATE

On Saturday, October 11, the Men of Westminster are sponsoring a construction service project with Rebuild Upstate. Rebuild is one of our Witness and Service partners that works to repair and improve houses for low-income families in the upstate to preserve affordable housing and ensure families can stay in their homes. Sign up on the website under "Events Registration." Contact Nick Carson with any questions.



Wondering if weather will postpone an event? Need a reminder to sign up for a church-wide meal? Text "wpcgreenville" to (864)232-2424 to get up-to-date information about our life together! We promise we won't bombard you. Text today or follow the QR code. Text replies are not frequently monitored, please note that this number does not belong to a member of WPC staff.

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