



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Francis of Assisi

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 Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major Bach
- * Call to Worship Isaiah 43:1-3a
- Leader: Thus says the Lord, he who created you,
O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
People: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
Leader: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
People: For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
All: Let us worship God!
- * Hymn 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON
- * Prayer of Confession
- Holy and gracious God,
we have deceived ourselves and the truth is not in us.
We behave like our lives belong to us.
We strive for personal comfort, professional status,
and control of our future.
We forget that life is a gift,
that you are the author of our days,
and that we belong to one another.
Forgive us, and shape our lives anew.
Help us to choose compassion over fear,
sacrifice instead of selfishness,
and generosity over material gain.
Grant us faith to step beyond our fears,
so that our lives would look more and more
like our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom we live and love and 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 George Connell Felt

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 5:1-9 p. 45
- Second Scripture Lesson, Exodus 5:22-6:9 p. 46
- Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
- Sermon "What Story Will We Live By?"

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 "He, Watching Over Israel" Mendelssohn
- * 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 822 "When We Are Living" SOMOS DEL SEÑOR
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude Procession II Ore

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*
Christa Likes, *sponsor*
Dorothy Dowe, *scripture reader*
Sanctuary Choir
Rosemary Hughes, *flute*
Judy McKenney, *guitar*
Parks Workman, *head usher*
Stan Pendergrass, Mary Mac Fairey, Mandy Pruitt,
Tim Reed, Susan Robbins, *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.

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 George Connell Felt, son of Tyler and Mary Knight Felt.

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:

Sept 7:	Exodus 5:1-6:9
Sept 14:	Exodus 14
Sept 21:	Exodus 16:1-15

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.



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.

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. 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.

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. Sign up on the website.

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.

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!

YOUNG ADULTS LUNCH

Join WPC-YA for lunch directly following the 11:15a church service on September 28. We will meet at Tacozzini (1818 Augusta St., 29605). Children are welcome! Questions? Contact Emily Lordo (emilydlordo@gmail.com).

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

WPC's Creation Stewardship group will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, September 21, at 9a in Room 211. All who are interested in the care of God's creation are invited to participate.

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
September 7-14, 2025

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

Monday, September 8

7:00p Monday Game Night
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 9

12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, September 10

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

Thursday, September 11

10:00a Bible Study
12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, September 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p Civil Rights Pilgrimage Meeting
4:30 Baptism Class
5:00 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, Lindsey Donlan

In Exodus 6, God speaks to Moses with a bold promise: “Now you will see what I will do ... I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.” Yet when Moses tells the Israelites, they cannot listen. The weight of slavery and years of disappointment had crushed their spirit. Scripture says their hearts were closed to hope.

Many of us know this feeling. We’ve prayed, waited, and longed for change. The job stress that never ends, the chronic illness that lingers despite every prayer, parenting struggles that make your heart ache with worry, the heavy weight of grief and loss, and waiting seasons where answers are delayed and you wonder if God has forgotten. Life’s hardships can make hope feel impossible.

Like the Israelites, it’s easy to become overwhelmed by circumstances. It’s tempting to believe that God has abandoned us. This can cause us to drown out God’s promises.

But notice what God does: God did not abandon Israel because of their discouragement. Their inability to believe did not cancel his promise. Even when the Israelites couldn’t lift their heads to hope again, God was still working, still moving, still determined to set them free from Pharaoh. God revealed more of himself in their darkest moments. He reminded them of his covenant, his power and his faithfulness. And in time, he fulfilled every word.

The same is true for us. God’s promises stand firm even when we are too weary to hold onto them. God’s outstretched arm is still strong to redeem. Trust that he is still working for your good, even when you can’t see it yet and prayers feel unanswered (Garth Brooks has a great song about unanswered prayers!). Have faith that what feels unanswered isn’t ignored - sometimes God is answering in a different way, in his timing, and often in ways we can’t yet understand. He reminds us that his plan is bigger, his timing is perfect, and his presence is constant.

Sunday School for all ages starts
this Sunday, September 7 at 10a.

Children on Sunday Mornings

Nursery is available for infant 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 7

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 in Room 209 at 10a for a combined adult Sunday School featuring lively conversation about Westminster's past, present, and future.

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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at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

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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 this 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).

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 14 in the Charter Room following worship.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, September 17, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (Imaryanncox@gmail.com).

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!

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. Visit the WPC Web site to register!

CHERUB CHOIR

It's time for Westminster's youngest voices, 4K and 5K children, to register for Cherub Choir. Director Diana Dailey will expose young voices to new sounds and experiences through music beginning Wednesday, October 8. Cherubs will meet in Room 210 from 3:30–4p. Parents may also volunteer to help with Cherubs. Register online, and for more information, contact Diana Dailey (ddailey@wpc-online.org).

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

First Steps in Music provides important time for parents or grandparents to enjoy music with children/grandchildren. Led by Diana Dailey, the First Steps teaches simple songs, games, and prayers for two- and three-year olds and adults to experience together. Classes will begin Sunday, October 5, from 4:30–5p. Register online, and for more information, contact Diana Dailey (ddailey@wpc-online.org).

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LIFE@WPC

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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