

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 14, 2025 |On Demand on YouTube|9a & 11:15a



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you...Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

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 Voluntary Boyce

* Call to Worship Isaiah 41:8-10

Leader: Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

People: You whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners:

Leader: Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God.

People: I will strengthen you and help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 33 Psalm 150: "Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show" LLANFAIR

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
far too often we find ourselves stuck
in our own insular world.
We love to choose the status quo over new acts of justice.
We have had selective hearing,
listening to familiar voices
but ignoring the cries of the oppressed.
We have stood still when you asked for deeds of mercy,
and when courageous steps were necessary,
we ran the other way.

Forgive us, restore us, and renew our trust in you.
Grant us hope when despair is close;
grant us faith when it’s hard to trust;
grant us love, so that Christ may be seen through us.
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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism 9a Lidie Jo Stamm

Congregational Response Baptized in Water BUNESSAN



11:15a Children in K5 – first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Exodus 14:8, 10-14 p. 53

Second Scripture Lesson, Exodus 14:15, 21-31 p. 53

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Go Forward"

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

Offering

Offertory 9a Trouble Done Come My Way Spiritual, arr. Price

Offertory 11:15a Do Not Be Afraid Stopford

* 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 463 "How Firm a Foundation" FOUNDATION

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude Marche Léfébure-Wély

*All who are able may stand

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching

Leigh Stuckey, liturgist

Cris Crain, sponsor

Gayle Sprague (9a), Betsy Hollar (11:15a), scripture readers

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Judy McKenney (9a), soloist

Kathryn Knauer (11:15a), soloist

George Howell (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), head ushers

Denise Broderick, Susan Robbins, Emily Cole,

Zach Weaver, Ben Dillard (9a), greeters

Will Edwards, Tony Threatt, Ingrid Erwin,

Elizabeth Timmons, Mary Mac Fairey (11:15a), greeters

David Heegard, Chandler Murphy (11:15a), 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.

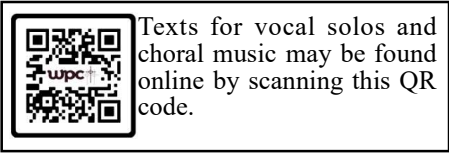
With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, Anderson Ringo Stone, to David & Clair Stone, on Wednesday, August 6, 2025.

BIRTH

The birth of a son, Luke Selman Ciulla, to Nick & Kelly Ciulla, on Thursday, September 4, 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 Lidie Jo Stamm, daughter of Drew & Elizabeth Stamm.

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 14: Exodus 14
Sept 21: Exodus 16:1-15
Sept 28: Exodus 17:1-7

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.



INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a on Sunday, September 21. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

MONDAY GAME GROUP

The Game Group continues to meet Mondays at 7p in the Entrance Pavilion. 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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

We are excited for a season filled with connection, encouragement, and growth in faith! Please save these dates for our upcoming events – we'd love for you to join us and bring a friend!

- **Fall Kickoff Party** – Thursday, September 18, (6p) at the home of Mary Frances Knapp (1 Petiver Ln)
- **Social at NY Butcher Shoppe** – Thursday, October 9 (6p)
- **Social at Tacozzinni** – Tuesday, November 11 (6p)
- **Advent Luncheon** – Sunday, December 7 (12:30p)
- **Women's Retreat** – February 13-15, 2026, at Kanuga Conference Center

For more information or to get involved, contact Rachel Workman (rachelwworkman@gmail.com). We look forward to growing together!



We are kicking off a drive for personal care items for Soteria Women's house. They are in need of feminine hygiene, undergarments, body wash, loofah sponges, journals, small wallets/handbags, simple make-up and more. Please scan the QR code to visit the Amazon wish list, or drop off new/unused items in the labeled cabinet in the Friendship Court.

📍📺 wpcgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
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(864) 232-2424
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
September 14-21, 2025

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

Monday, September 15
5:30p Community Needs Task Force Meeting
7:00 Monday Game Night
Theology Reading Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 16
12:00p Al-Anon
Child Protection Training (Zoom)
6:00 Men of Westminster Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 17
12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
2:30p It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 18
10:00a Bible Study
5:00p Health & Safety Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, September 21
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
Creation Stewardship Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p New Member Reception
12:30 Stated Session Meeting
5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middler Youth Group
Senior High Youth Group

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | September 14, 2025 | No. 23

From the Pews, Rob Morgan

My father has Alzheimer's. While he's been struggling for at least a few years, the progression is much more obvious lately. For now he still knows his family and friends, although daily challenges abound for him and my mother at this stage. Acclimating to the day and time. Getting dressed. Losing (and finding) house keys. It's a painful process in so many ways, as many members of our church family know all too well.

The disruption of daily - even lifelong - routines might be the most difficult part of this disease. Gone are the highlights of being retired, such as deciding where to play golf, where to have lunch, or perhaps what trip to take with friends and family. Tough decisions now confront my parents on a weekly basis. Should they move? Is it time for home health? Is everything "in order" for what lies ahead?

There are no easy answers, and sometimes it just seems safer to be still. To do nothing is always an option. Yesterday was fine, so maybe we have some time. This wasn't what we wanted, but should we really risk upsetting his routine? When we discussed things as a family last Christmas, I reflect on Dad's comments at the time. It won't be easy, he acknowledged, but he would rely on his faith for the road ahead.

In today's scripture we encounter arguably one of the most famous stories in the Bible - God leads Moses to part the Red Sea so the Israelites can escape the wrath of Pharaoh. After hundreds of years of captivity, a window of opportunity has opened. And yet the Israelites find themselves trapped between the waters of the sea and the mighty Egyptian army.

Some questioned the predicament they now faced. Why did we leave? Was the timing right? Yesterday was fine and now here we are. Tough decisions. Undeterred by a problem with no obvious solution, Moses delivers a line oft repeated in the Bible: "Do not be afraid," going on to tell his people: "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." And with that assurance, we all know the triumphant ending as the Israelites are delivered from imminent danger while the Egyptian army is completely destroyed.

In the course of life we all face countless difficult decisions. Am I ready for marriage? Should we have a baby? Is this the job for me? Are we able to retire? In our own family some of those decisions loom quite large in the near future. And while there are no easy answers, we can...we must...rely on our faith. And may each of us always remember the words of Moses - do not be afraid, for the Lord will fight for us.

Join us for a new term of Adult Education!
Classes will meet September 14 – October 12

Faith and Politics: Christian Nationalism and Faithful Christianity
Facilitated by Dr. Bryan Bibb, *Professor of Religion Furman University*

Room 209 and Streaming

September 14:

Join Dr. Claire Gilliland, Professor in the Department of Sociology at Furman and Elder at Westminster, for the opening session of this class on how faith and politics are connected today. We'll dig into the specific version of White Christian Nationalism that feels loud in politics today, exploring how a variety of political and religious ideas have merged into a simple and powerful ideology. What are other possibilities for faith and politics, and why don't we hear as much about them? More broadly, we'll consider how these issues divide people along both religious and political lines, creating an "other" instead of a "neighbor."

September 21:

Dr. Camille Lewis, Professor in the Department of Communications at Furman and author of Klandamentalism: Bob Jones at the Intersection of Revivalism, Politics, and White Supremacy and White Nationalism and Faith: Statements and Counter-Statements on American Identity (among others)

September 28 and October 5:

Dr. Bryan Bibb, Professor in the Department of Religion at Furman University.

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.

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.

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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).

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!

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.

**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.

TEXT "wpcgreenville"

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.



LIFE@WPC

LUNCHEON GROUP

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

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Child Protection Training will be offered by Zoom at 12p on Tuesday, September 16. Anyone volunteering with children and youth needs to complete this training once a year. For more information, contact Lauren Slingerland, lslingerland@wpc-online.org.

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Child Protection Training will be offered by Zoom at 12p on Tuesday, September 16. Anyone volunteering with children and youth needs to complete this training once a year. For more information, contact Lauren Slingerland, lslingerland@wpc-online.org.

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).

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!

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.

**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.

TEXT "wpcgreenville"

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.



LIFE@WPC

LUNCHEON GROUP

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

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