Sunday, October 12, 2025 | On Demand on YouTube | 9a & 11:15a



# Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Preparation for Worship**

"The Decalogue stands as a critical principle of protest against every kind of exploitative social relation...and as a social vision of possibility that every social relation (public and interpersonal, economic and political) can be transformed and made into a liberating relation...the commandments are the foundational absolutes of God's purpose in the world. They disclose the non-negotiable will of God."

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.

Minute for Stewardship Roger Gower

Prelude Pavane Fauré \* Call to Worship Galatians 5:13-14

We were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Leader:

**People:** So let us not use our freedom

as an opportunity for self-indulgence.

The whole law is summed up in a single commandment: Leader:

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." All: Let us worship God!

\* Hymn 35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN

\* Prayer of Confession

People:

Holy God.

we know that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

We have done that which we ought not to have done.

We have failed to do that which you have asked us to do.

We have shrugged our shoulders at the poor.

We have turned our backs on the most vulnerable.

Forgive us, gracious Lord.

Help us to see our transgressions clearly, and grant us courage to change our ways.

Mold our minds according to your wisdom,

and renew our hearts by your grace.

Strengthen our resolve to love our neighbors in more faithful and fruitful ways. Amen.

\* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

\* Gloria Patri. Hvmn 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 11:15a

Eloise McCarter Jennings

Baptized in Water Congregational Response Bunessan



# Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Matthew 22:34-40 Second Scripture Lesson, Exodus 20:1-17

p. 804 p. 58

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

Sermon "Where Do These Words Belong?"

# 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 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer arr. Wood Offertory 11:15a Markings of Grace 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.

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn 546 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" SICILIAN MARINERS

Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude Sortie Wagner

\*All who are able may stand

# Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching

Lauren Slingerland, liturgist

Anne Howson, sponsor

Susan Grier (9a), David Golladay (11:15a), scripture readers

Margaret Lowry-Brock (9a), soloist

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Pam Evans (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), head ushers

Amy Hawkins, Denise Broderick, Ben Bloodworth,

Mandy Pruitt, Stephen Ridgeway (9a), greeters

Mike Peters, Trey Morrow, Walker Miller,

Bill Ballinger, Jeff Reynolds, (11:15a), greeters

Grace Huerta, Ella Kate Maxwell (11:15), 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.

# Join Us in Welcoming

#### BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Eloise McCarter Jennings, daughter of Corey & Kaley Jennings.

# With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

The birth of a son, Theodore Anthony Rowland, V. to Anthony & Kristin Rowland, on Friday, June 27, 2025.

The birth of a daughter, Virginia Reese Nalley, to Weston & Emily Nalley, on Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

#### BIRTH

The birth of a son, William Cove Calhoun, to Heath & Sarah Calhoun, on Thursday, October 2, 2025.

# 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:

Oct 12: Exodus 20:1-17 Oct 19: Exodus 32:1-14 Oct 26: Deuteronomy 15:1-11

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### WI

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### 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).

# WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETINGS

#### Tuesday, October 14

 Circle 3, at the home of Eleanor Peters (500 Berkmans Ln) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

#### Tuesday, October 14

 Circle 7, at the home of Margaret Paylor (Waterstone @ 1004 Augusta St) at 6p. Circle Contact: Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).

#### LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, October 15, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (Imaryanncox@gmail.com).

# TRICK OR TREAT AT TERRA BELLA

Our annual Witness & Service trick-or-treat event at Terra Bella will be Wednesday, October 29. Our children will bring joy to residents at Terra Bella Retirement Home as they go trick-or-treating in their Halloween costumes. Arrive at the church at 5:30p to walk over together to trick-or-treat with residents. We'll return to the Fellowship Hall for dinner afterwards. There is no cost, but we ask that you sign up so we will know how much food to prepare.

#### Text "wpcgreenville"

Wondering if weather will postpone an event? Need a reminder to sign up for a churchwide 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.



#### CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will rehearse on Tuesday, October 14 from 7-7:45p in the Choir Room to prepare a piece to sing for the 9a worship service on October 19. The Chancel Choir is a part-time choir for adults and high schoolers, and meets for two rehearsals to learn a single choral piece for worship. All are welcome to participate! Contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music, with questions or for additional information.

#### THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, October 20, at 7p. Dianne Scherer will lead the discussion of *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, a novel by Mitch Albom. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are welcome.

# 2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONS

It's that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to write short devotionals to be included in the 2025 Advent Devotions series. Please contact Abbie Coleman at abbie.garrison3@gmail.com if you would be willing to help with this.

#### HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will hike the Carrick Creek and Lake Pinnacle trails in Table Rock State Park on Thursday, October 16. Hike Leader: Ralph Bouton (ralphbouton@yahoo.com).

# MEN'S GROUP SOCIAL

Our next Men of Westminster Social is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, at 6p. Join us at Fireforge brewery for a beverage, snacks, and an evening of fellowship.

# 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.



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#### **Church Staff**

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Lauren Slingerland Associate Pastor Islingerland@wpc-online.org

Nick Carson Associate Pastor ncarson@wpc-online.org

Terri Price Parish Associate tprice@wpc-online.org

Marlon Hurst
Director of Music
mhurst@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell Organist tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch Weekday School Director cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Lynn Bennett Financial Manager lbennett@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little Office Manager michelle@wpc-online.org

# Our Vision:

*Open minds open hearts.* 

# **Our Pillars:**

Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

# **Our Goals:**

Connect Serve Grow

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS October 12-19, 2025

#### Sunday, October 12

#### Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

NO Children's Church

NO Evening Youth Groups/Choirs

00a Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee

Meeting

10:00 Combined Children & Youth Sunday School

10:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting

11:15 Worship Service

12:45p Connections Group 4:00 First Steps in Music (Class 1)

4:30 First Steps in Music (Class 2)

# Monday, October 13

Weekday School Closed

7:00p Monday Game Night8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

# Tuesday, October 14

12:00p Al-Anon
2:00 Circle 3 Meeting
6:00 Circle 7 Meeting
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Wednesday, October 15

12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

# Thursday, October 16

10:00a Hiking Group Outing
10:00 Bible Study
12:00p Endowment Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

# Sunday, October 19

#### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
10:15	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
12:30p	Stated Session Meeting
4:00	First Steps in Music (Class 1)
4:30	First Steps in Music (Class 2)
5:00	Youth Choir Rehearsals
6:00	Youth Dinner
	Youth Parent Meeting

5:30 Middler Youth Group Senior High Youth Group

# the

# **HARBINGER**

VOLUME LXXVIII | October 12, 2025 | No. 27

# From the Pews, Janie Little

As summer gives way to fall, we welcome the familiar signs of the season — the crispness in the air, the beauty of changing leaves, the excitement of football games, the scent of pumpkin spice, and yes... even the arrival of Stewardship Season at Westminster Presbyterian Church!

While stewardship may not be at the top of everyone's "fall favorites" list, I have come to genuinely appreciate this season. Each year, I look forward to hearing members of our congregation share their stories from the lectern about how Westminster has shaped their lives, why they give, and what our church means to them. I've also been moved by the sermons during this season, which often challenge and inspire me in meaningful ways.

When I reflect on what Westminster means to me, and why Charles and I choose to give, the answer is simple — this church has been a cornerstone of our lives for the past 36 years. To list every reason why we joined and stayed would take pages. But if I had to capture it in one word, that word would be: everything.

Westminster has been central to my faith journey. My faith is not just something I practice on Sundays — it defines who I am. It influences how I make decisions, how I treat others, how I spend my time, and how I use the resources God has entrusted to me. This church reminds me daily of who I am and whose I am. It grounds me in the call to follow Christ and to live a life of purpose and service.

Westminster has nurtured not only my faith but also the faith of my family. Over the years, this community has walked with us through joys and challenges, offering support, teaching, and love. We are who we are today because of the faith formation and fellowship we have found here.

So why do we give — our time, our talents, and our resources to WPC? Because God calls us to do so.

"We love because He first loved us." – 1 John 4:19

We give in response to God's generous love. We give because God has entrusted creation — and this community — to our care. Supporting the church is not only an act of gratitude, but also a commitment to the ongoing work of God in the world

Thirty-six years ago, we chose Westminster as our church home. And as long as we are part of this family of faith, we will continue to support it with grateful hearts.

# Back to School Adult Sunday School Term 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

We will continue our conversation about faith in the civic sphere, Christian nationalism, race, and faith.

October 12: Q&A, moderated by Dr. Bibb

# Discussion Sunday School 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.

October 12: Jennifer Dillard

# October 12 Combined Sunday School

All ages are invited to participate in an introduction to our Stewardship theme for this year. Kids, youth, and adults are welcome to join in exploring this year's theme through art, creating, and conversation. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Please note that the Adult Sunday School Discussion Class and Faith & Politics Class will continue to meet.

#### 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!

- Social at Tacozinni 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.

# **Congregational Meeting October 26**

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, October 26, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the 2025-26 Nominating Committee.

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# Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>For six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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