

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 11, 2026 | On Demand on YouTube | 9a & 11:15a



## Baptism of the Lord

### Preparation for Worship

Holy God, you sent your Son to be baptized among sinners, to seek and save the lost. May we, who have been baptized in his name, never turn away from our responsibility to your world. In the strength of your Holy Spirit, help us to walk with the wayward, serve the suffering, and love the unlovable. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

### 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

I've Just Come from the Fountain

Billingham

Isaiah 42

#### \* Call to Worship

Leader: Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

People: **I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.**

Leader: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you.

People: **See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

\* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,**  
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.

We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.

We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another.

We allow the past to hold us hostage.

In your loving kindness, have mercy on us,  
and free us from sin.

**Remind us of the promises you make in baptism  
so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.  
Amen.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

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

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581

**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.**

GLORIA PATRI

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism 9a  
11:15a

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water*



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, Matthew 3:1-6

p. 784

Second Scripture Lesson, Matthew 3:13-17

p. 784

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "He Would Have Prevented Him"

### 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 9a

O Light of Life

Wilberg

Offertory 11:15a

Rivers of Living Water

Marrolli

\* Doxology Hymn 606

**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 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Carlson

\*All who are able may stand

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Mandy Pruitt (9a), Gaye Sprague (11:15a), *sponsors*

David Golladay (9a), Gaye Sprague (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Katie Knauer (9a), *soloist*

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Andrew Knauer (11:15a), *hand drum*

Jay Bloodworth (11:15a), *violin*

Rosemary Hughes (11:15a), *flute*

Andrew Knauer (11:15a), *percussion*

Jacob Barker (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*

Kathryn Freedman, Jeff Reynolds, Amy Hawkins,

Betsy Raines, Blake Hoffman (9a), *greeters*

Anne Howson, Ben Bloodworth, Trey Morrow,

Bill Ballinger, Tim Reed (11:15a), *greeters*

Manning Dailey (9a), Berkeley Blumer (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.

#### 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 Ava Christine Macheledt.

#### BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Hazel Claire Coleman, daughter of Adam & Abbie Coleman.

#### WINTER CAMP RETREAT FOR 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS

WPC Kids in 4th and 5th grade are invited to a special, new retreat- Winter Camp! We'll head to Camp Fellowship after church on January 18 and return to the church by noon on January 19. During the retreat, we'll complete service projects for the camp and for our mission partners. We'll also have plenty of time to explore camp, enjoy a movie night, and deepen our faith through prayer and Bible study. Kids will grow in their relationships with one another and their understanding of service in God's family. Join us for this special retreat! Sign ups are available on the website.

**Our Vision:**  
Open minds open hearts.

#### Our Pillars:

Hospitality  
Generosity  
Justice  
Imagination  
Joy

**Our Goals:**  
Connect  
Serve  
Grow

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, January 21, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

### THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, January 19 at 7p.m. We will view a Journey film, Spiritual Audacity: the Abraham Joshua Heschel Story, producer/director Martin Doblmeier. All are welcome. Join us for an interesting evening.

### MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY@WPC

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

To Schedule, call: 864-675-4875

\*\*tell the scheduler that you wish to be scheduled for the WPC Mobile Event.

### 2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

As of January 2, we reached our goal of \$2,900,000 in pledges for 2026! This is over \$300,000 more than we received in pledges for 2025. The Session, Gifts & Gratitude Committee, and staff thank you for your generosity with Westminster! If you have not yet pledged, it's not too late to do so. Please contact our Financial Manager, Lynn Bennett, with your 2026 pledge.

### 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 replies are not frequently monitored, please note that this number does not belong to a member of WPC staff.

### Adult Sunday School Term January 4 - 18

### **Gifts That Last: Understanding Church Endowments** Led by Ted Gentry Room 209 and Streaming

This class will examine church endowments through at least three lenses – legal, financial, and theological. How is an endowment created? What continuing obligations does a church have to follow the wishes of donors? How can well-considered gifts support the work of the church? Are there times when seemingly generous gifts have bad consequences – and if so, what can be done about it? Finally, what are the ethical and spiritual risks faced by a "wealthy" church? (The course will consider endowments generally; it will not focus narrowly on WPC's endowment.)

### Discussion Sunday School Class:

#### Led by Leigh Miller (1/11)

#### Room 211

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.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

 [wpcgreenville](http://wpcgreenville) | [wpc-online.org](http://wpc-online.org) | 2310 Augusta St.

### THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2310 Augusta Street  
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### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 11-18, 2026

#### Sunday, January 11

##### Baptism of the Lord

9:00a Worship Service  
Witness & Service Committee  
Meeting  
10:00 Sunday School  
Confirmation Class #1  
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service  
12:30p Baptism Class  
Kids Winter Retreat Parent Meeting  
5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals  
6:00 Youth Dinner  
6:30 Middler Youth Group  
Senior High Youth Group

#### Monday, January 12

7:00p Game Group  
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

#### Tuesday, January 13

12:00p Al-Anon  
2:00 Finance Committee Meeting  
Circle #3  
6:00 Circle #7  
Men of Westminster Board  
Meeting  
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Wednesday, January 14

9:00a Circle #6  
9:30 Weekday Chapel  
2:30p It's Elementary  
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, January 15

10:00a Bible Study  
5:00p New Member Gathering at Lefty's  
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

#### Sunday, January 18

##### Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a Worship Service  
Library Committee Meeting  
10:00 Sunday School  
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service  
12:30p Stated Session Meeting  
NO WPCYG/  
YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 8-12, 2026

### FOR RISING KINDERGARTENERS - RISING 5TH GRADERS

MORE INFORMATION  
COMING SOON!

# the **HARBINGER** open minds open hearts

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### From the Pews, Whit Walker

This week's scripture (Matthew 3:13-17) reveals to us one of the most sublime and significant events in Christian history. A poor itinerant minister, John the Baptist, is fulfilling his mission of baptizing his fellow Israelites, preaching repentance and seeking salvation with God. From a distance, a man approaches. John is both awed and intimidated. The man who approaches is the Messiah.

Imagine if you were John as Jesus asks you to baptize him. You're humbled and contrite, trying hard to decline the request. Yet Jesus is well aware of his destiny and persuades you to perform the deed. Then, as his baptism is completed, the gates of heaven open and the Holy Spirit descends as a dove alighting on Jesus' shoulder. A loud voice from the heavens confirms Jesus' identity by proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Seeing the Trinity together for the first time must have been an awesome spectacle for that long ago audience.

I also sense the same awe every time we baptize an infant in our church. I have to admit I occasionally get teary-eyed with emotion at the beauty and significance of this sacred event. My emotions begin at the opening prayer, continues with the charges asked of the parents and the congregation, and concludes with the minister walking the child down the center aisle, as our congregation sings "Baptized in Water." As an added bonus, we get to see some of the biggest smiles and proudest faces on the parents and family of the baptized child. Always something truly beautiful to behold.

Starting with his simple anointment in the river Jordan, Jesus devoted his life to helping us understand what a successful Christian life entails. Each time we reenact that event from two thousand years ago, I fervently pray that we can fulfill the vows we make to those newly baptized. Life is not always easy. Can we keep our faith and willpower strong enough to renounce sin and live the life Christ wants us to? Can we consistently set aside our personal issues to help those experiencing life's misfortunes? Are we the disciples Christ wants us to be, spreading the good news of the gospel? These are the promises we make to God - and to these infants and their families - just as Jesus did in his sacrament of baptism.