

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 18, 2026 |On Demand on YouTube|9a & 11:15a



Second Sunday after Epiphany
Preparation for Worship

“Scripture scholars contend that the original language of the Beatitudes should not be rendered as... 'Blessed are the peacemakers' or 'Blessed are those who struggle for justice.' Greater precision in translation would say, 'You’re in the right place if...you work for peace.' The Beatitudes are not a spirituality, after all. It’s a geography. It tells us where to stand.”

Gregory Boyle

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 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. Bish

* Call to Worship Micah 6:6-8

Leader: With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
People: God has told you, O mortal, what is good.
Leader: And what does the Lord require of you?
People: To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" AZMON

* Prayer of Confession
Good and gracious God,
we know that Christ has come among us as our peace,
and yet we are a divided people.
We cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
leave us with little energy to love our neighbors.
The fears and jealousies we harbor
alienate us from our neighbors.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Give us the courage to stand with those on the margins,
to reach out to those who are vulnerable,
and to use our gifts for the greater good.
We ask it all in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
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

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination
First Scripture Lesson, Matthew 4:23-25 p. 785
Second Scripture Lesson, Matthew 5:1-12 p. 785
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Sermon "Starting Point"

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 Eternal Life (Prayer of St. Francis) Dungan
Offertory 11:15a Thy Kingdom Come Marrolli
* 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 543 "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" GREEN TYLER
* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude Rigaudon Campra

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching
Nick Carson, liturgist
Jordan Smith (9a), Bryan Kingrey (11:15a), scripture readers
Nancy Smith, guest organist
Marlon Hurst (9a), soloist
Jay Bloodworth (11:15a), violin
George Howell (9a), John Paylor, Jr. (11:15a), head ushers
Nancy Johnson, Creighton Likes, George McLarty,
Mary Mac Fairey, Will Edwards (9a), greeters
Ingrid Erwin, Carrie Marguet, Stephen Ridgeway,
Emily Cole, Amanda Warren (11:15a), greeters
Delaney Cox (11:15a), acolyte

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP NOTES

No Children's Church
this Sunday,
January 18

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.

PANCAKE LUNCH

The Men of Westminster will be serving a pancake lunch following worship on February 8. RSVP on the website, and join us for an afternoon of fellowship and pancakes!

We Remember in Prayer

Jorge Andres' and his family on the death of Jorge's father, Pedro Andres, on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Bryan Atkins and his family on the death of Bryan's father, Morris Atkins, on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Texts for vocal solos and choral music may be found online by scanning this QR code.

2026 HERITAGE LECTURER



Join us Sunday, January 25, to hear Dr. Yolanda Pierce preach at both 9a and 11:15a worship services. She will also lead a joint Sunday School class at 10a.

Yolanda Pierce is Dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School and the University Distinguished Professor of Religion & Literature. As a first-generation college student, Pierce earned degrees from Cornell University and Princeton University. Her scholarly research specialties include African American religious history; womanist theology; and race and religion. An accomplished administrator in higher education and a widely published writer, Pierce is a native New Yorker, public theologian, community activist, and ordained minister.

SPRING SERMON SERIES

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT:
BUT I SAY TO YOU

This spring, we will explore the Sermon on the Mount, found in chapters 5-7 of Matthew. These three chapters contain some of Jesus’ best-known teachings, such as the Beatitudes, and some of his most difficult teachings, such as his instruction about anger and loving one’s enemies. To help you follow along, our scripture passages for the next three weeks are the following:

Jan 18: Matthew 5:1-12
Jan 25: Heritage Lecture Sunday
Feb 1: Matthew 5:13-16

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.

LUNCHEON GROUP

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

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet Thursday, January 22, to hike Rainbow Falls at Jones Gap State Park. Hike Leaders: Ralph Bouton (ralphbouton@yahoo.com) and Donn James (donnandsalliejames@gmail.com).

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. We will next meet on Friday, January 30, at 6:30p at the home of Charles & Janie Little (107 Welling Cir). Watch your email for more information or check the church's website ("Connect", "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Men of Westminster will be attending the Swamp Rabbits hockey game at 7p on Wednesday, February 11. To facilitate community, this will be box seating. Spots are limited to 18 men. The cost is \$35 and includes admission and snacks. Signup online before Sunday, February 8.

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 Kathleen Reynolds (1/18)
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.

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

Music is an important way to communicate with young children even before they are able to sing alone. First Steps in Music is an opportunity at Westminster that provides an important time for parents or grandparents to enjoy music with their child/grandchild. Led by Diana Dailey, the First Steps classes teach simple songs, games, and prayers for 2-and 3-year olds and adults to experience together. Classes begin Sunday, February 1, at 4:30p.

CHERUB CHOIR

Registration is now open for Cherub Choir! Cherub Choir is a music opportunity for children in K4 and K5. Under the direction of WPC member Diana Dailey, children will learn a variety of musical skills culminating with a Spring Musical in April. Children in Cherubs will meet Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4p beginning February 11.

WOMEN'S RETREAT
FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

Join Westminster Women at the annual Women's Retreat on February 13-15, 2026. The retreat will take place at the Kanuga Conference Center in Flat Rock, NC. This year's conference will be led by Sandra Smith, a Certified Enneagram Consultant and author of Heart of the Enneagram: A Companion for Deepening Personal and Spiritual Growth. You will find the retreat a joy-filled, reflective experience with other women from WPC! Please sign up on the church website.

CHANCEL BELLS

Chancel Bells is a part-time handbell choir that rings periodically in worship at the 9a Sunday service. The next opportunity to ring will be Sunday, February 22 with rehearsals on Tuesdays, February 10 and 17 from 6-6:45p. Participants must commit to be present for both rehearsals. Prior handbell ringing experience is helpful but not required, but music-reading proficiency is a prerequisite. To take part, please e-mail Marlon Hurst, Director of Music, by Monday, February 2.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

wpccgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

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Church Staff

Ben Dorr

Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey

Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan

Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland

Associate Pastor
lslingerland@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

Wendy Bagley

Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend

Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips

Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18-25, 2026

Sunday, January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Kids Winter Retreat at Camp Fellowship

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

Monday, January 19

Kids Winter Retreat at Camp Fellowship

Church Office Closed

Weekday School Closed

7:00p Game Group
Theology Reading Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 20

10:00a Staff Meeting
12:00p Al-Anon
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 21

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

Thursday, January 22

10:00a Bible Study
10:30 Hiking Group
12:00p Endowment Committee Meeting
5:00 Health & Safety Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, January 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a Worship Service
Creation Stewardship Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School: Heritage Lecture
Confirmation Class #2
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
5:00p Youth Choir Rehearsals
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middlers Youth Group
Senior High Youth Group

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 8-12, 2026

FOR RISING KINDERGARTENERS -
RISING 5TH GRADERS

MORE INFORMATION & SIGN UPS
COMING SOON!

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Lindsey Donlan

In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus sat on a mountainside, with his disciples gathered close, and he began to teach the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are one of the most beloved teachings of Jesus. The word "beatitude" comes from the Latin term beatus, meaning "blessed" or "happy," yet Jesus invites us to consider a different understanding of what it means to be truly blessed.

Have you ever stopped to think about what you believe is needed for a good life - or for happiness? What would it take for you to say "I'm blessed?" Could your attitude shape the way you experience life? Much of what happens to us, or around us, and across the world, is beyond our control. What we can control is how we respond.

Each Beatitude reflects a quality found perfectly in Jesus. He was humble and compassionate, meek and righteous. He was pure, merciful, and a peacemaker. He endured persecution with love and patience. Together, the Beatitudes illustrate Christlike character. Through these teachings, Jesus shows us how to live in ways that shape our hearts to be more like his.

Each blessing represents the real meaning of life, faith, and service. Preparing for this Harbinger cover has led me to reflect on how the Beatitudes are lived out through our actions and purpose here at Westminster. Open minds open hearts is our vision and commitment for community life and discipleship. Our minds are open to God's word and our hearts are open to the world. We are encouraged to grow deeper in our faith and more active in service.

Through our missions, we seek to support the fight against injustice, hunger, and poverty in the world. As a faithful church community, we serve, love, pray, and grow together. As we enter the new year, may we listen closely to Jesus' words and allow them to reshape our understanding of blessing, happiness, and a good life.