



First Sunday in Lent

Preparation for Worship

Holy God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own goodness. We know that it is your loving-kindness that strengthens us, and your grace that sustains us. You have made us so that we cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Give us a hunger for that Word today, and fill us with a peace that passes understanding, through Jesus Christ our 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 *Give Me Jesus* Spiritual, arr. Carter

\* Call to Worship 2 Corinthians 5

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

People: **Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!**

Leader: God has reconciled us to God's self through Christ.

People: **God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 503 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" O QUANTA QUALIA

\* Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.**

**We confess that we have strayed from you**

**and turned aside from your way.**

**We are misled by pride.**

**We see ourselves as wise when we are foolish,**

**right when we are wrong, powerful when we are weak,**

**and great when we are small.**

**We have failed in love, neglected justice,**

**and ignored our neighbor.**

**Forgive us, O God, and return us to paths of righteousness.**

**Grant us the courage to forgive those who have wounded us,**

**and to reconcile with those who are distant from us.**

**In Christ's name we 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

**Glorify 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.**

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 5:17-20*

p. 786

Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 5:21-26*

p. 786

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Leaving Before the Benediction"

Responding to **God's Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.

Music During Communion *Agnus Dei* Plainchant

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory 9a *A Lenten Prayer* Hopson

11:15a *O Lux Beatissima* Helvey

\* Doxology, Hymn 606 OLD HUNDRETH

**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 166 "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" ST. FLAVIAN

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude *Grand Chorus in F* Franck

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Nick Carson, *liturgist*

Betsy Raines (9a), Susan Robbins (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Chancel Choir (9a)

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Aaron Cizon (9a), Pam Evans (11:15a), *head ushers*

Blake Hoffman, Denise Broderick, Pam Evans,

Nancy Johnson, Tim Reed (9a), *greeters*

Blake Hoffman, Ben Dillard, Sam White,

Amanda Warren, Stephen Ridgeway (11:15a), *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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for this Sunday, February 22, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the next class of elders and one trustee, to hear the report of the Finance Committee, and to vote on the 2026 terms of call for the pastoral staff. The elder nominees are the following: Christopher Carsten, Brooke Culclasure, Mason Donlan (class of 2028), Trey DuBose, Jason Farmer, Nancy Giguere, Ragan Kirven, Jennifer McDavid, Judy O'Neal (class of 2027), Josh Riley, Jennifer Shurley, Clay Smoak, Whit Walker, and Josie Williams. The nominee for trustee is Carl Muller.

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:

Mar 1: Matthew 6:7-13, 25-34

Mar 8: Matthew 7:1-5

Mar 15: Matthew 7:13-14

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION

Our goal is to provide elements for communion that all are able to consume. It is an act of hospitality mirrored in God's hospitality inviting us to the table. The bread we are offering at today's communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sour dough (rice flour, water), rice starch, comstarch, sugars (rice syrup, caramelized sugar), modified cellulose, psyllium seed husk (vegetable fibre), sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fibre, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour. May Contain: Mustard, Sesame.

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, March 15, with rehearsals on Tuesdays, March 3 and 10, from 6-6:45p. Participants must commit to being present for both rehearsals. Prior handbell ringing experience is helpful but not required, but music-reading proficiency is a prerequisite. To take part, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music, by Monday, February 23.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER SERVICE DAY  
MARCH 7 | REBUILD UPSTATE

Join us for our spring Service Day with Rebuild upstate on Saturday, March 7. We'll be working on a construction project for a nearby homeowner to help maintain affordable housing in the Greenville area, and ensure homeowners can stay in their home safely and affordably. More information on location and projects to come. Sign up on the website. Contact Nick Carson for more details.

PICKLEBALL AT WPC-?

We're excited to explore the possibility of a pickleball league at WPC. This would be a fun, inclusive get-together for all skill levels. If you'd like to participate, please share your name, contact number, and your skill level: beginner, intermediate, or advance. Text: Tonya Cochran (864-607-1876) or Toni Paylor (864-270-1662). Come for the fun and the fellowship.

NEW MEMBERS@WPC

We welcomed the following new members into our fellowship on February 15, 2026:

- Audrey Burch comes to us reaffirmation of faith.
- Tim Decker comes to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Elizabeth & Chelsea LeVeque-Bolt come to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Robert & Cindy Love come to us by transfer from Westminster Presbyterian, Wilmington, DE.
- Scott Moss comes to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Chris Sine comes to us by reaffirmation of faith. Chris's wife, Rachel, will join by baptism at a later date. They have twin sons, Allan and Jack (12).
- Dennis Whatley & Kimey Kyker come to us by reaffirmation of faith.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

RETREAT AT MONTREAT

Join us for our annual Men of Westminster Retreat at Montreat on April 24-26. Our theme is "Journeys of Faith" led by our keynote speaker, Rev. Lucas Jones. Lucas currently serves alongside his wife, Gardner, as Executive Directors of Camp Illahee, a Christian Girl's summer camp in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Lucas grew up in Raleigh, graduated from NC State University, and later from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has served as an Associate Pastor for three years in Columbia, SC at Downtown Church. In and beyond ministry, he has spent much of his life teaching and leading folks in the outdoors. Lucas loves biking, hiking, and traveling with his wife and their children, Brooks, Jasper, and Ruthie. Sign up on the website! Contact Nick Carson with any questions.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30p in the Library. Sherry Tate will review *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach. All are welcome to come!

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

**THE HARBINGER**  
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
February 22 - March 1, 2026

**Sunday, February 22**  
*First Sunday in Lent*  
9:00a Worship Service w/communion  
Education Committee Meeting  
Confirmation Mini Retreat #1  
10:00 Sunday School  
Sunday School Open House for WPC Kids  
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service w/communion  
12:15p Congregational Meeting  
12:30 Acolyte Training  
Mediterranean Pilgrimage  
Informational Meeting  
1:00 Connections Group  
2:00 Incoming Elder Training (3 of 3)  
4:30 First Steps in Music  
5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals  
6:00 Youth Dinner  
6:30 Middlers Youth Group  
Senior High Youth Group

**Monday, February 23**  
10:00a Staff Meeting  
5:00p Emergency Preparedness Training  
7:00 Game Group  
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

**Tuesday, February 24**  
12:00p Al-Anon  
Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting  
3:00 PW Honorary Life Membership Committee Meeting  
4:30 Weekday School Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, February 25**  
9:30a Weekday Chapel  
2:30p It's Elementary  
3:30 Cherub Choir  
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 26**  
10:00a Bible Study  
4:30p Hands-Only CPR Class  
5:00 Health & Safety Committee Meeting  
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

**Saturday, February 28**  
12:30p Campaign Feasibility Focus Group: WPC Elders  
3:00 Campaign Feasibility Focus Group: Lightly Seasoned

**Sunday, March 1**  
*Second Sunday in Lent*  
9:00a Worship Service  
Confirmation Mini Retreat #2  
10:00 Sunday School  
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service  
12:30p Campaign Feasibility Focus Group: Weekday School Parents  
3:00 Campaign Feasibility Focus Group: It's Elementary Parents  
4:30 First Steps in Music  
5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals  
6:00 Youth Dinner  
6:30 Middlers Youth Group  
Senior High Youth Group

the  
**HARBINGER**  
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | February 22, 2026 | No. 47

*From the Pews, Tim Reed*

Today's scripture offers an opportunity to ponder. I haven't murdered anybody, Check. But have I ever been angry with my brother or sister? Double-Check.

In this passage, Jesus takes a familiar command-do not murder-and quietly moves it closer to home. He shifts the focus from the outward act to the inner posture that gives it life. Anger, contempt, dismissive words, these may seem minor compared to physical violence, yet Jesus treats them seriously. Not because they always explode into something worse, but because they shape how we see one another.

What is most striking about this teaching is its emphasis on relationships. Acts of worship, offerings, and religious practices are not disregarded, but they are paused when there is unresolved conflict between people. Jesus highlights that mending broken relationships is just as important as participating in religious rituals. Reconciliation is not presented as a mere moral obligation; rather, it is seen as an essential act that creates room for honesty, humility, and peace in our lives.

The need to settle festering, unresolved matters tend to grow heavier over time. What begins as irritation can harden into distance, and distance into judgment. Jesus does not outline every situation or offer simple formulas, but he does invite attentiveness—to words, emotions, and timing.

Perhaps the invitation here is not perfection, but awareness: noticing when anger lingers, when relationships strain, and when a small step toward reconciliation might matter more than we think.

Think twice before you say "I'm so mad at you, I could kill you."

Ultimately, this passage invites us to be attentive to our emotions and relationships. By choosing reconciliation over resentment, we create space for honesty, humility, and peace in our lives.

**FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL:  
A MEDITERRANEAN PILGRIMAGE,  
APRIL 2027**

Scripture comes alive in the places where it originated. The oils and wines of the Old Testament taste more robust on the arid soil of Athens. The "love" passages in Corinthians take on more meaning when you stand in front of a shrine to Aphrodite. In April 2027, Westminster will visit key Ancient Near Eastern sites associated with the Letters of Paul in the New Testament. We will also travel by cruise to the Greek Islands, including Ephesus and Patmos in Turkey. Because of the complexity of travel, we ask that those who may be interested join us for an informational meeting at 12:30p this Sunday, February 22, in Room 213. A Zoom link will be provided for those who cannot attend in person. For more information, or to receive Zoom instructions, please contact Leigh Stuckey.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
June 8-12, 2026**  
for Rising Kindergartners through  
Rising 5th Graders  
more information & Sign-ups  
coming soon!

**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 and Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 22. 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).

**HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS  
THURSDAY FEB 26 AT 4:30P**

February is designated as Heart Month, focusing on heart health and cardiovascular disease prevention. What better way to celebrate this initiative than participating in a hands-only CPR class! According to the American Heart Association, about 90% of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival. This class will teach basic hands-only CPR (compressions), NOT certification for full CPR training. We also hope to have AED demonstration and practice as well. Please contact Emily Cole with questions, 864-612-6185, ecole1217@gmail.com. Register online <https://wpc-online.org/connect/events-registration>.

**Adult Sunday School**

***The Upside Down Kingdom:  
Parables from Luke's Travel Narrative  
Led by Ron Shive  
Room 212***

Luke is unique to the other Gospel writers and has a ten-chapter long journey of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week. Along the way, Luke records many parables of Jesus that are not found in the other Gospels. This study invites us to make a parallel journey to Jerusalem during this season of Lent and to consider Luke's unique parables. These parables invite us to see and hear the coming of the Upside Down Kingdom of Jesus here and now. The novelist, Arundhati Roy, says, "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." Join us during Lent as we listen to hear the Upside Down Kingdom breaking into our world. "Stranger Things" are happening.

***Release to the Prisoner:  
Exploring Theology and Justice for the Incarcerated  
Room 209 and Streaming***

- Feb 22: Story of Soteria (Jerry Blassingame)
- Mar 1: The Prisoner in Scripture (Nick Carson)
- Mar 8: What We Mean When We Say "Justice" (Nick Carson)

***Discussion Sunday School Class:  
Led by Anna Hanor - 2/22  
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.

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A SEASON OF DISCERNMENT

The Session has appointed a Capital Campaign Feasibility Committee that would like to hear from you! Westminster members are invited to attend one of the following Town Hall gatherings in the Fellowship Hall:

Sunday, March 8, 12:30-2p

Sunday, March 15, 12:30-2p

Sunday, March 22, 3:00-4:30p

You can register for a Town Hall gathering on our church website:

<https://wpc-online.org/season-of-discernment-town-hall-meetings/>

You can read the Case for Support here:



Case for Support

**Our Vision:**

*Open minds open hearts.*

**Our Pillars:**

*Hospitality*

*Generosity*

*Justice*

*Imagination*

*Joy*

**Our Goals:**

*Connect*

*Serve*

*Grow*

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You can read the Case for Support here:



Case for Support

**Our Vision:**

*Open minds open hearts.*

**Our Pillars:**

*Hospitality*

*Generosity*

*Justice*

*Imagination*

*Joy*

**Our Goals:**

*Connect*

*Serve*

*Grow*

A SEASON OF DISCERNMENT

The Session has appointed a Capital Campaign Feasibility Committee that would like to hear from you! Westminster members are invited to attend one of the following Town Hall gatherings in the Fellowship Hall:

Sunday, March 8, 12:30-2p

Sunday, March 15, 12:30-2p

Sunday, March 22, 3:00-4:30p

You can register for a Town Hall gathering on our church website:

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Case for Support

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