



Second Sunday in Lent

Preparation for Worship

The pushing and the shoving of the world is endless. We are pushed and shoved. And we do our fair share of pushing and shoving in our great anxiety. And in the middle of that you have set down your beloved suffering Son who was like a sheep led to slaughter, who opened not his mouth....We give you thanks for that mystery from which we live. Amen.

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.**

Prelude *Rhosymedre* Vaughan Williams

* Call to Worship Psalm 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

People: **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

People: **The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

People: **The Lord will keep you going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE

* Prayer of Confession

**Living and loving God,
we know that our energy and eyesight
have been focused on the wrong things.**

**We worry about the future
instead of trusting in your faithfulness.**

**We work for our own security
instead of alleviating our neighbor's suffering.**

**We swim in the shallow end of faith,
fearful of taking risks with our love,
scared of being bountiful with your grace.**

Forgive us, Holy One.

Help us amend our ways.

Grant us the courage to welcome the stranger,

to give voice to the vulnerable,

and to befriend the lost, the lonely, and the unlovable.

We ask it all in Christ's holy name. Amen.

* Hymn 578 *Kyrie eleison* ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ
Stanza 1, solo (9a)/choir (11:15a)
Stanza 2, all

* 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism 11:15a Andrew William Rhodes

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, *Matthew 6:7-13* p. 787

Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 6:25-34* p. 787

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Worrying Like a Christian"

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 *Sometimes a Light Surprises* arr. McKenney

Offertory 11:15a *Sometimes a Light Surprises* Courtney

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDETH

**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 687 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" ST. ANNE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Toccata* Eberlin

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Amy Hawkins (11:15a), *sponsor*

Anna Hanor (9a), Pam Evans (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Hunter Smith, *flute*

Judy McKenney, *soloist (9a) and guitar*

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Jacob Barker (9a), Ben Edwards (11:15a), *head ushers*

Kathryn Freedman, Jeff Reynolds, Mary Gentry,

Betsy Raines, Sam White (9a), *greeters*

Anne Howson, Stan Pendergrass, Trey Morrow,

Bill Ballinger, Tim Reed (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

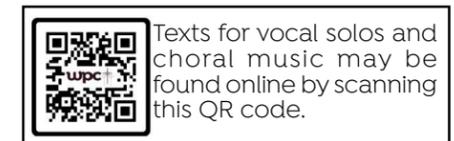
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.

We Remember in Prayer

Jeff and Terri Price and their family on the death of Jeff's mother, Ruth Price, on Friday, February 20, 2026.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Jackson Dean Moss*, to Scott & Mary Moss, on Saturday, February 21, 2026.



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 *Andrew William Rhodes*, son of John & Lizzie Rhodes.

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 8: Matthew 7:1-5
- Mar 15: Matthew 7:13-14
- Mar 22: Matthew 7:15-20

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

We are offering free blood pressure screenings the first Sunday of each month. Screenings will take place this Sunday, March 1, in the Friendship Court immediately following the 10a Sunday School hour. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact Emily Cole at ecole1217@gmail.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 8-12, 2026

for Rising Kindergartners through Rising 5th Graders

more information & Sign-ups
coming soon!

SUMMER NURSERY DIRECTOR POSITION

Westminster Presbyterian is looking for a Summer Nursery Director on Sunday mornings, June-August. The Summer Director will be primarily responsible for supervising the Nursery staff and ensuring a safe, welcoming environment for children and families. The hours are Sunday mornings, 9a-11:30a, and up to 4 hours during the week communicating with Nursery and Church staff. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Lauren Slingerland, Associate Pastor for Children, lslingerland@wpc-online.org.

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!

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.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, March 16, at 7p. Walter Hinton will lead the discussion of *The Storm*, a novel by Frederick Buechner. All are welcome. Join us for an interesting evening.

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.



LIFE@WPC

AMERICAN SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE

The acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble will present a concert at WPC on Saturday, March 21, at 7p. This choir has performed for audiences around the globe, and their appearance in the Upstate is a rare performance in our area. Free tickets are available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). An offering will be collected at the concert to offset expenses. For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

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.

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.



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

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1 - 8, 2026

Sunday, March 1

Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Confirmation Mini Retreat #2
- 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
- Campaign Feasibility Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Middlers Youth Group
- Senior High Youth Group

Monday, March 2

- 10:00a Staff Meeting
- 5:30p Stewardship Task Force Meeting
- 4:30 Game Group
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 3

- 12:00p AI-Anon
- Administrative Committee Meeting
- 6:00 Men of Westminster Board Meeting
- 6:30 Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, March 4

- 2:30p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 5

- 10:00a Bible Study
- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, March 7

Men of Westminster Service Day

Sunday, March 8

Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- Worship Workshop Milestone for 1st & 2nd Graders
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Campaign Feasibility Town Hall Gathering
- 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

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From the Pews, Amanda Warren

The pastor of my childhood Presbyterian church once preached a sermon entitled "You Can Pray While Brushing Your Teeth, But You Shouldn't Brush Your Teeth While Praying." I was in middle school at the time, and I remember being exceptionally curious about what exactly my pastor was going to say that Sunday morning.

Many years have passed since then, but if my memory serves me correctly, the main point my pastor was trying to relay is that one can pray whenever and wherever they would like as long as the prayer being offered is genuine and not given in a distracted fashion. Fancy words and opulent spaces are not necessary, nor is a crowd of people to hear the prayer being made. What God cares most about is sincerity.

In today's passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks about prayer. He warns those listening not to offer up empty prayers that sound important but really are only meant for others' approval. He reminds his disciples that God knows what we need before we even ask, and intimate prayers are best. He then provides a prayer—what we now know as the Lord's Prayer—that his disciples can use as a model. Today's scripture verses focus on the first half of the prayer, which includes themes of a personal relationship with God, respect and reverence, requests for daily provisions, forgiveness for self that is then extended to others, and protection.

While we speak this prayer together weekly in worship—and perhaps at other times throughout each week—how many of us actually follow this model and incorporate these themes when praying on our own? I know that if God were giving me a grade for my prayer practices, I would not earn an A.

The good news is that prayer is not a graded assignment and that Jesus was very specific about the things I can and should change. No guessing or public presentations are required for any of us! And we don't have to worry about our attempts not being esteemed or good enough. God cares about our prayers being heartfelt, not perfect.

So, the next time you're brushing teeth and you feel a desire to truly connect with God on a personal level, I encourage you to give it a try. I promise to do the same.

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:



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**

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 Kathleen Reynolds - 3/1
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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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We're excited to share that this year's Vacation Bible School, Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, will be held June 8-12, 2026. It's going to be a meaningful week of fun and learning as we explore what all living things need and how we can have compassion for the living earth.

We're looking for adult and youth volunteers to help with teaching, crafts, games, snacks, and group leadership. Whether you can serve all week or just a few days, your time and gifts will make a lasting impact on our children. Simply fill out the volunteer interest form in the QR code below, and someone from the Children's Ministry will be in touch.



Registration for children will open in late March, and the number of children we can welcome will be based on the number of adult volunteers we have in place. Join us in making this year's VBS a joyful and compassion-filled experience for everyone!

Our Vision:

Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:

- Hospitality*
- Generosity*
- Justice*
- Imagination*
- Joy*

Our Goals:

- Connect*
- Serve*
- Grow*

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