



Second Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship

“a limit is not an obstacle or challenge that lies before us as something to be overcome and then left behind. If it were, it would be at the periphery of our lives as the domain not yet appropriated and internalized. Theologically understood, limit goes to the core of our being because it marks us as ones who must constantly go to the tree of life and receive life as a gift from beyond our own power.”

— Norman Wirzba, “The Art of Creaturely Life”

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 *Blessed Assurance* arr. Monsell

* Call to Worship

Leader: Is this not love,

People: not that we loved God, but that God loved us, sending the only Son into the world, that we might live through him.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 23 "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" PLEADING SAVIOR

* Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts,
cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts
we may draw near to you,
becoming more of what you created us to be,
by confessing our faults,
confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our center and our strength;
through Jesus Christ your Son. 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.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Philippians 4:8-13* p. 955

Second Scripture Lesson, *Genesis 2:4b-9* p. 2

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "The Limits that Make Us"

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 *There in God’s Garden* arr. Bankson

* 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 435 "There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy" IN BABILONE

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response "Lead Me, Guide Me" LEAD ME GUIDE ME

*Lead me, guide me, along the way,
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

* Postlude *Fanfare* Leighton

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Jade Fountain, *scripture reader*

Summer Choir

Hunter Smith, Rosemary Hughes, *flutes*

Pam Evans, *head usher*

Josh Riley, Josie Williams, Coleman Dixon,

Stephen Ridgeway, Nancy Johnson, *greeters*

David Heegard, *acolyte*

WORSHIP NOTES

Today’s prelude is the latest piano arrangement by Todd Monsell of hymns requested by WPC members and friends. *Blessed Assurance* was requested by and is dedicated to Jade Fountain.

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.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

We will not have Children’s Church from June 7-July 26. We will begin having Children’s Church again on Sunday, August 2.

LOW COUNTRY BOIL - JUNE 7

Kick off the summer with shrimp and sausage at WPC’s Low Country Boil. Share in the fun at Double Stamp Brewery in Holland Park (819 Laurens Rd) this Sunday, June 7, from 5-7p. Families are welcome; childcare will not be provided. This event is free to the WPC community, but space is limited. RSVP on Harbinger Hub. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success.

GRATITUDE FOR THE THEOLOGY READING GROUP

After twenty-four years of active ministry among our congregation, the Theology Reading Group has met for the final time. We celebrate the work of the group, most especially Sandra Wallace and Pat Shufeldt, for their faithfulness in leading dozens of members through some of the most important theological books and films of our time. The Theology Reading Group lived into our pillars and embodied "Open minds that open hearts," and we are incredibly grateful!

A GENTLE REMINDER

Summer is an opportunity for vacations, the beach, and time with family and friends. But even when we are away, the church remains active with our children and youth ministries going strong, the weekday school running throughout the summer, and numerous outside groups using our facilities. In addition, our mission partners depend on us all year long. If possible, we ask you to keep your giving up to date. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to God’s work at Westminster.

CHORAL AND VOCAL TEXTS

Choral and vocal texts for worship services may be found via the Harbinger Hub QR code.

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

YOUNG ADULT SUMMER POOL PARTY

Young adults and their families are invited to a summer pool party on Friday, June 12, from 5-7p at the home of David & Anna Hanor (4 Parkins Lake Rd, 29607). We will have swimming, dinner, drinks, and treats. RSVP via Venmo to Anna @annahanor (\$10 adults, \$5 kids, family max \$30). See you there!

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, June 17, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Soteria Women's House kitchen renovation is complete! There is an Amazon Wish List link in the Harbinger Hub to help fill their kitchen with all of the things they need.

THE SESSION

The Class of 2027

Ben Dillard
Will Edwards
Mary Mac Fairey
Kathryn Freedman
Mary Gentry
Claire Gilliland
George Howell

Creighton Likes
Carrie Marguet
Trey Morrow
Judy O'Neal
Mandy Pruitt
Sam White, Jr

The Class of 2028

Bill Ballinger
Denise Broderick
Coleman Dixon
Mason Donlan
Pam Evans
Blake Hoffman
Nancy Johnson

Mike Peters
Tim Reed
Stephen Ridgeway
Tony Threatt
Amanda Warren
Tiffany Williams

The Class of 2029

Christopher Carsten
Brooke Culclasure
Trey DuBose
Jason Farmer
Nancy Giguere
Ragan Kirven

Jennifer McDavid
Josh Riley
Jennifer Shurley
Clay Smoak
Whit Walker
Josie Williams

CAFÉ JUSTO COFFEE SALES

Over the next month, Café Justo coffee will be available for purchase in the Atrium (May 17 - June 14). Coffee purchases support the ministry of Frontera de Cristo, a non-profit organization on the US/Mexico border working to support migrants and address the root causes of mass migration.

CONNECTIONS

Connections, a luncheon group for singles and couples, will meet at Lieu's Asian Bistro (103 E Beacon Dr) on Sunday, June 14, at 11:30a. RSVP to Ruth Johnson (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, June 12. Newcomers are always welcome!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIVING CARDS

We acknowledge that faithful giving may be offered to Westminster Presbyterian Church in a variety of ways. If you give electronically or by other means, please feel free to place an Acknowledgement of Giving card—found in the Ritual of Friendship—in the offering plate as a sign of your worship and offering to God.

Rescheduled
HERITAGE LECTURE
Dr. Yolanda Pierce
Sunday, August 9
Education Lecture at 9a
Preaching Hour 10a

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7-14, 2026

Sunday, June 7

Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal
9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Donut Reception
11:15 VBS Training MakeUp
5:00p Low Country Boil

Monday, June 8

9:00a Vacation Bible School
10:00 Weekly Staff Meeting
4:30p Game Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, June 9

9:00a Vacation Bible School
12:00p AI-Anon

Wednesday, June 10

9:00a Vacation Bible School

Thursday, June 11

9:00a Vacation Bible School
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, June 12

9:00a Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 14

Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal
9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Donut Reception

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Blake Hoffman

At peak performance, we often see elite athletes brandishing Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” With faith, the statement is certainly true. In context, Paul also writes from his Roman prison in verse 12: “I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.” Through our faith, we are equipped for the moments of peak performance, as well as the circumstances of need.

At 12:48a on a Friday morning in early May, Christopher and I were reminded of Paul’s message to Philippi: we received the emergency call from Arkansas that our surrogate was in labor at 32 weeks and 6 days of gestation. A thirteen hour drive away from us, we faced the reality that we would miss the birth of our son and daughter. This was not ideal. With great focus, we packed and loaded the car based on what little knowledge of the circumstances we had: two Yetis full of coffee, a week’s worth of clothes, and whatever supplies we had read that newborn babies may (or may not) need. We were exhausted and running on adrenaline, pushing aside the bigger emotions and questions in our minds. With an emergency cesarean section about to begin, the doctor assured us that a nurse would call after the procedure to provide us with an update. After a prayer in our front hallway, we hit the road. Thirteen hours to go.

At a gas station outside of Atlanta, we received the call from an unknown number labeled as ‘Healthcare.’ The mix of emotions in that moment spanned everything from excitement to fear. If I’m honest: it was mostly fear. The sweet voice of Heather announced to us the times of birth, and most importantly that the twins were healthy. We took in a flood of information: lengths, weights, hair color, and the commentary that our daughter is ‘fiesty.’ What a relief! Only 11 hours left to go.

At 5:53a, we witnessed the most beautiful sunrise over Birmingham – our first as parents. Whether it was the beauty of the deep violets and brilliant yellows painting the rearview mirror, or our gratefulness for the light, this seemed like an occasion to mark. Alabama. Mississippi. Tennessee. And somehow, 5 hours in Arkansas.

At the time of writing this, we have an unknown number of days still to go in our NICU stay away from home, as Lydia and Lucas continue to grow and take full bottles. We have been humbled in so many ways, but also given so many gifts and so much strength. Looking back, there are many moments and conversations that prepared us for this odyssey, including mere hours before the phone call when fellow Westminster member Susan Clark reminded us how freezing a hospital can be. This whirlwind of weeks has been a great reminder that yes, I can do all things through him who strengthens me, but also: the realization that we are equipped for the highs and also for the lows, simultaneously. Thanks be to God.

HARBINGER HUB: ALL THE LINKS FROM TODAY’S HARBINGER IN ONE PLACE.

Scan the QR code to explore and engage with this week’s bulletin. You’ll find links to events, registrations, ministries, and opportunities to grow and connect within Westminster.

