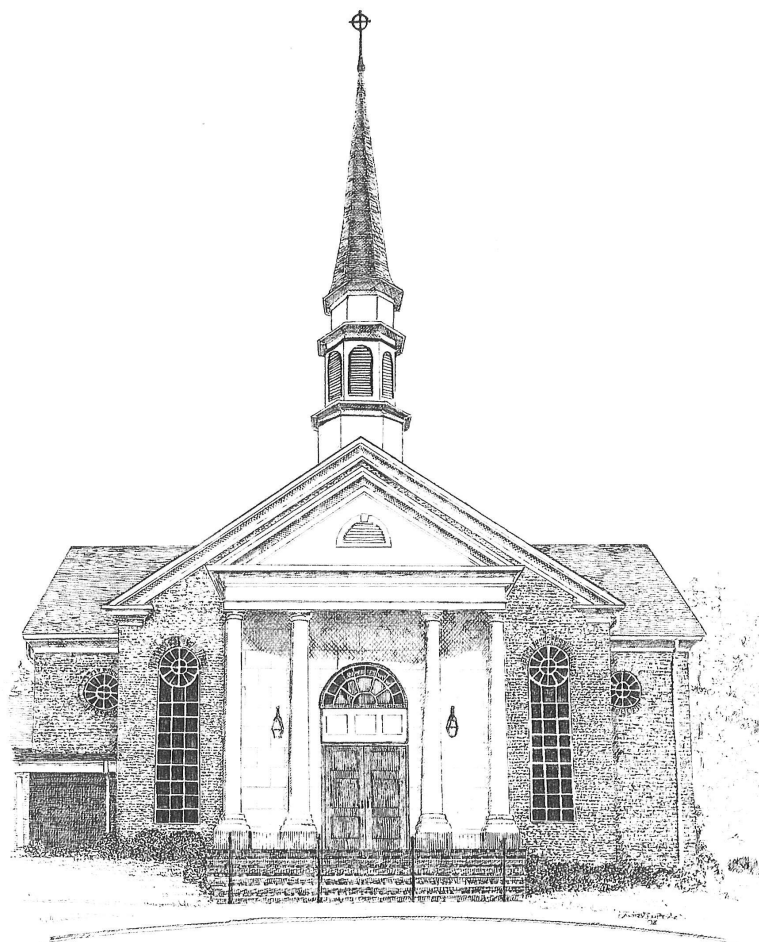


Westminster Presbyterian Church



An Inclusive Community of Faith
United by Our Faith in Jesus Christ and
Our Commitment to Sharing God's Love and Grace
to Those Among Us and Those Beyond Us

You Are Welcome Here:

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Westminster is a welcoming and inclusive community seeking to grow in faith and understanding and to show God's love to those among us and those around us. We pray you experience our joyful welcome and God's peaceful presence as you worship with us today.

Questions about Westminster? Just ask! Any one of us would be glad to help.

Children at Westminster:

Children are an integral part of our church family. We are glad when they come to worship God with us. In our midst, children learn our rhythms of worship, become knit into our fellowship, and teach us as surely as we are teaching them.

After the "Time with All God's Children", children first grade and up (by age or development) are encouraged to remain in worship. Children in kindergarten and younger (by age or development) may depart with our caregivers and teachers for Children's Sunday School or remain with their parents for worship if they choose.

If this is your first visit to Westminster, you are welcome to accompany your child to Children's Sunday School so that you can meet our caregivers and help settle your child in. Children's worship packets are available in the narthex. As is a brochure regarding our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult protection policy.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God
April 28, 2024

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming the Hour

Prelude

Words of Scripture

Psalm 22:27

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
And all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

Welcome and Announcements

Nancy Hart Wicker

***Call to Worship**

When I am restless Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am weary Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am away Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am at home Lord, **abide with me.**

When I forget you Lord, **abide with me.**
When I turn towards you Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am bold Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am afraid Lord, **abide with me.**

When I am sure Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am doubtful Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am speaking Lord, **abide with me.**
When I am listening Lord, **abide with me.**

In this hour of worship Lord, **abide with us.**

***Hymn #543**

“Abide with Me”

EVENTIDE

*Abide with me: fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?*

Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Abiding One, you know that at least one of these two things is true of us. Either we are like toddlers, unable to rest in your embrace, we wriggle free, forgetting that your watchful eye is always on us, or we are paralyzed by fear, unable to step out into the plans you have made for us, again forgetting that your watchful eye is always on us and your love will lead us.

We pause for personal prayer.

Forgive our forgetfulness. When it is time to rest in your love, help us to rest. When it is time to step out in faith, help us step out with you. Help us, O God to trust in your always abiding love. As you abide with us, may we, O God, abide with you. Amen.


Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise

SERVICE MUSIC


582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F




1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7



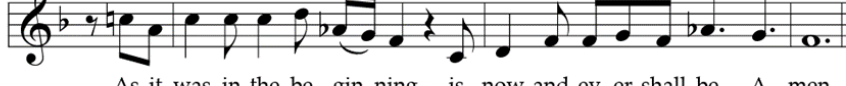
and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for All God's Children

Prayer of Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

New Testament Reading

Acts 8:26-40

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) **27** So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” **30** So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” **31** He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. **32** Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” **35** Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. **36** As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” **38** He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Grapes Gone Wild”

*So he got up and went.
Acts 28:27*

Prayers of the People and 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.

Call to Offering

***Offertory Hymn #426**

“Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”
(Verses 1-4)

CANONBURY

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of Thy tone.
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone.*

*O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.*

*O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.*

***Doxology**

OLD ONE HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God whom we adore.***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from all the power of the devil.**

**He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can
fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me
of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready
from now on to live for him.**

*Hymn #369

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’M GONNA LIVE

*I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I’m gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I’m gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

*The sanctuary flowers this week are given by Tina Corley
in memory of Julian Frippe Craig, Jr. and in honor of Andrew Julian Hurst.*

Serving Today at Westminster

Organ:	Claire Kuhl
Vocalist:	Laura Margaret Fennell
Liturgist:	Nancy Hart Wicker
Host:	Wicker Family
Tech Team:	Arthur Gillespie
Sunday Study:	Tina Corley
Children’s Sunday School:	Kathy Gillespie

Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room (<i>Adults</i>)
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's Wing (<i>Children and Youth</i>)
Worship	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing
Music and Worship	11:15 am	Choir Room
Nurture and Education	3:00 pm	Parlor

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	M-Th	
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 – 7:00	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Brown Bags and Books	6:00 – 7:30	Wednesday	Joe Gettys Classroom

Next Sunday, May 5

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room (<i>Adults</i>)
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children's Wing (<i>Children and Youth</i>)
Worship and Communion	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children's Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children's Wing
Session Meeting	11:30 am	Parlor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Opportunities at Westminster

Sunday Adult Study: We continue our study of the Book of Acts today.

Bema Podcast Discussion Group Interest has been expressed in starting another BEMA Discipleship Podcast Bible study group. This study is a different and illuminating walk through the Bible using the eastern lens of its original writers and hearers. If you are looking for a new approach to the Bible or would like more information about this study, contact Gloria Christie by call/text (864-379-5034) or email gchristie716@gmail.com.

Books and Brown Bags continues this week with *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. Discussion will center on section four of the book.

Save the Date for VBS! Westminster Presbyterian Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church have joined forces to offer this exciting week of diving into the Bible! "Into the Waters" will be on June 10 through June 14, 9:30am to 11:30am, open to all ages 4 through rising sixth grade.

Giving Time, Talent, and Treasure

There are many ways to contribute to our life together at Westminster. If you are looking for a place to serve, our pastor, Caroline, or any of our elders would love to talk with you to see where your passions and skills intersect with the work of our church family here at church or in our community. Financial contributions can be made by check or cash placed in the offering plate here at church. There are envelopes in the pews. Checks can also be mailed into the church office. No checkbook? No worries! Tithes and offerings can also be made through Tithe.ly, our online giving app which you can find by using this QR code or going to our website at <https://www.wpcgnwd.org/giving>.

<https://www.wpcgnwd.org/giving>



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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Inclusive Community of Faith

United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ

Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. – Noon Office Phone: 864.229.3595

www.wpcgnwd.org wpcgwd1@gmail.com

Clerk of Session

Steve Kuhl

Treasurer

Len Bornemann

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2023

David Hammond

Richard Wilson

Class of 2024

Kathy Nave Felder

Claire Kuhl

Class of 2025

Tina Corley

Rob Graves

Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor

317.777.1487

Sunday Study 9:00 a.m. Church Service: 10:00 a.m.

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