



## Listening

“I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God.  
Bend down and listen as I pray.”  
Psalm 17:6 NLT

Sometimes we just need someone to listen to us.

To pay attention as we untangle the knot of a problem.  
To “lend an ear” as we talk through the plans that we have made.  
Do they make sense? Will it work? Is it a good idea?  
To receive the outpourings of our doubts, worries, and fears.  
Our sadness and disappointment, our hopes and our dreams.  
To hear our questions and wonder with us at the answers.  
To say, “What happened next?” And, “Is there more?”  
And, “How did that make you feel?”

God is good at this.  
Could we be a people who are good at this?

Saint Teresa de Avila once said,  
*“Christ has no body now but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.”*

Could ours be the ears through which God hears?  
Could we be the face of God’s attention?  
When we listen.

With open heart and open ears, I am your pastor and friend,



*Caroline*



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## Sermon Series for March: Listen to Him

*During the forty-day season of Lent, we are following God's instructions to Jesus' dearest friends as found in Matthew 17:5, "This is my Son, the beloved, with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*



**March 5: Jesus Speaks to One in the Dark**  
*Second Sunday in Lent/Communion*  
Guest pastor: The Rev. Phillip Dennis  
† John 3:1-17

**March 19: Jesus Speaks to Those Who Think They Know It All**  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
† Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14  
† Gospel: John 9:1-41

**March 12: Jesus Speaks to the Alienated**  
*Third Sunday in Lent*  
† Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-11  
† Gospel: John 4:5-42

**March 26: Jesus Speaks to His Beloved Friends**  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
† Epistle Reading: Romans 8:6-11  
† Gospel: John 11:1-45



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## *Sailboat Church* Forty-Day Prayer Challenge Underway!

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, the entire congregation of Westminster embarked on a prayer challenge that serves as our daily Lenten devotional this year. It is essential for *every* Westminster member and friend to commit to this shared adventure in seeking God's navigation plan and inviting the Holy Spirit to fill our sails.

Every day, refer to your copy of *Sailboat Church*, or check your inbox for the Forty

Days with God email. Read the scripture, reflect on the devotional text, and then, nourished and focused by the Word, it's time for *you* to pray—to pray for your personal needs, for community concerns, for the good of all creation, and especially for discernment about God's plan for Westminster as a congregation.

Suggested practices for participating in this discipline are provided on page 111 of *Sailboat Church*. (If you don't already have your copy, contact the church office.) Consider inviting someone to be your prayer partner or form a small prayer circle. Participate in Caroline's gatherings (see the Westminster Happenings calendar on page 3). You will find it particularly valuable to actually write down your prayer each day. The physical act of transforming your inner thoughts into written words imbues your prayers with special power, and allows you to reread them during (and after) the forty-day challenge. The book provides space to record your thoughts, or you might use your journal or even a favorite notes app on your smartphone. See page 19 for other tips on how to enrich your prayer life.

As Gray notes, "Only God can make the changes in our life that will turn those of us who are by nature rowers into sailors. [And] sailing begins with praying." Amen and amen!

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# Westminster Happenings

- Wednesday**  
**March 1** **Forty Days with God: Prayers in the Prayer Garden**  
Bring your cares and prayers to the WPC Prayer Garden at 5:30 P.M.  
Join your WPC friends in putting down oars and lifting up prayers.
- Thursday**  
**March 2** **Star Word Sharing Time**  
Connect with other Star-Word gazers via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.  
Enlighten each other about your 2023 Star Word experiences.
- Thursday**  
**March 2** **LGBTQ+ Bible Study and Fellowship**  
Meet new friends in the Youth Room upstairs at 6:00 P.M.  
Explore what God's word has to say to you about life in today's world.
- Sunday**  
**March 5** **Sunday School**  
Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.  
View the crucifixion through the eyes of the other victims—the two thieves.
- Sunday**  
**March 5** **Jesus Speaks to One in the Dark**  
*Second Sunday in Lent/Communion*  
*Guest pastor: The Rev. Phillip Dennis*  
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.  
Strive to understand when Jesus speaks about heavenly things.
- Sunday**  
**March 5** **Presbyterian 101: Polity—How we do things**  
Participate at 11:15 A.M. in the Choir Room.  
Learn PC(USA)'s organizational "rules of the road," our Book of Order.  
*Child care provided.*
- Tuesday**  
**March 7** **Forty Days with God: Prayers Over Breakfast**  
Come to the West End Café (108 Old Abbeville Hwy) at 7:00 A.M.  
Savor breakfast and listen for God with your Westminster friends.
- Tuesday**  
**March 7** **Mindful Greenwood**  
Gather in the Branches Sunday School Room upstairs at 6:30 P.M.  
Enhance your Lenten discipline through meditation.
- Wednesday**  
**March 8** **Forty Days with God: Prayers in the Prayer Garden**  
Bring your hopes and dreams to the WPC Prayer Garden at 5:30 P.M.  
Experience the power of shared prayer as we prepare to sail.
- Saturday**  
**March 11** **Spring Clean-Up Day**  
Gather outside the office entrance at 9:00 A.M.  
Spruce up the church grounds in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.  
(See page 8 for details.)

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

<b>Sunday March 12</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room. Imagine how the Roman soldiers at the cross experienced the crucifixion.  <b>Jesus Speaks to the Alienated</b> <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Consider what Jesus says to the “outsiders” of His time and ours.  <b>Session Meeting</b> Meet in the parlor at 11:15 A.M. Conduct the business of the church, as led by the Holy Spirit.
<b>Monday March 13</b>	<b>Presbyterian Women</b> Come together in the Choir Room at 10:00 A.M. Discuss Chapter 6, “Sabbath and Hospitality.”
<b>Tuesday March 14</b>	<b>Forty Days with God: Prayers Over Breakfast</b> Come to the West End Café (108 Old Abbeville Hwy) at 7:00 A.M. Nourish body and spirit by praying with your Westminster friends.  <b>Mindful Greenwood</b> Gather in the Branches Sunday school room upstairs at 6:30 P.M. Experience the power of mindfulness meditation.
<b>Wednesday March 15</b>	<b>Forty Days with God: Prayers in the Prayer Garden</b> Bring your insights and inspirations to the Prayer Garden at 5:30 P.M. Engage with the Holy Spirit in the beauty of nature.
<b>Thursday March 16</b>	<b>LGBTQ+ Bible Study and Fellowship</b> Connect with friends in the Youth Room upstairs at 6:00 P.M. Study the Word of God in a safe space.
<b>Sunday March 19</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room. Put yourself in the shoes of the Beloved Disciple at the foot of the cross.  <b>Jesus Speaks to Those Who Think They Know It All</b> <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Listen as our omniscient Savior speaks in truth and love.  <b>Sunday Sustenance with Chef Rob &amp; Friends</b> Feast in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. Bring little ones up for a Sunday sing-along, led by Denise Waldrep.

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Tuesday**  
**March 21**

**Forty Days with God: Prayers Over Breakfast**

Come to the West End Café (108 Old Abbeville Hwy) at 7:00 A.M.  
Nourish body and spirit by praying with your Westminster friends.

**Mindful Greenwood**

Gather in the Branches Sunday School Room upstairs at 6:30 P.M.  
Practice techniques of mindfulness and meditation.

**Wednesday**  
**March 22**

**Forty Days with God: Prayers in the Prayer Garden**

Bring your qualms and fears to the Prayer Garden at 5:30 P.M.  
Seek the kingdom, knock at the door, ask for wisdom.

**Thursday**  
**March 23**

**Crossover Contemplatives: Interfaith Discussion and Book Club**

Gather in the Youth Room at 6:30 P.M.  
Wrestle with the concepts of *resurrection* and *rebirth* across faiths.

**Sunday**  
**March 26**

**Sunday School**

Join the conversation at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room.  
Explore the viewpoint of the women present at the crucifixion.

**Jesus Speaks to His Beloved Friends**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.  
Sit with fellow disciples at Jesus' feet and receive His words for you.

**Tuesday**  
**March 28**

**Forty Days with God: Prayers Over Breakfast**

Come to the West End Café (108 Old Abbeville Hwy) at 7:00 A.M.  
Pray with your Westminster friends for strength and sustenance.

**Mindful Greenwood**

Gather in the Branches Sunday School Room upstairs at 6:30 P.M.  
Continue expanding your mindfulness through meditation.

**Wednesday**  
**March 29**

**Forty Days with God: Prayers in the Prayer Garden**

Come to the Prayer Garden at 5:30 P.M.  
Open your heart and mind to God with your pastor and friends.

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## Children Studying God's Promises

For the past few weeks, the children have been learning about Noah and the Ark. The focus now is on the symbolic meaning of the rainbow: it is God's everlasting covenant of love. They learned that whenever they see a rainbow, it is a reminder of God's promise. The children were engaged in a variety of learning activities, including music, math, and art. Throughout the spring, the children will learn more about God's promises by reading stories about Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. They will also learn about Lent and Easter. Don't miss out!

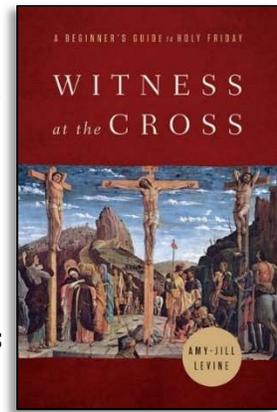


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## Were You There?

One beloved spiritual asks the painful question, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” This year’s Lenten adult Bible study invites us to ponder the experiences of those who are known to have been there, in real time, at the foot of the cross—from bystanders and scoffers to Jesus’ female followers and the Beloved Disciple.

This study was written by an author familiar to WPC studies: Amy-Jill Levine. Sunday morning sessions include a video presentation and lots of good discussion, facilitated by a series of volunteer leaders. You can buy a copy of the study guide, *Witness at the Cross*, from your favorite online bookseller.



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## Who is My Neighbor?

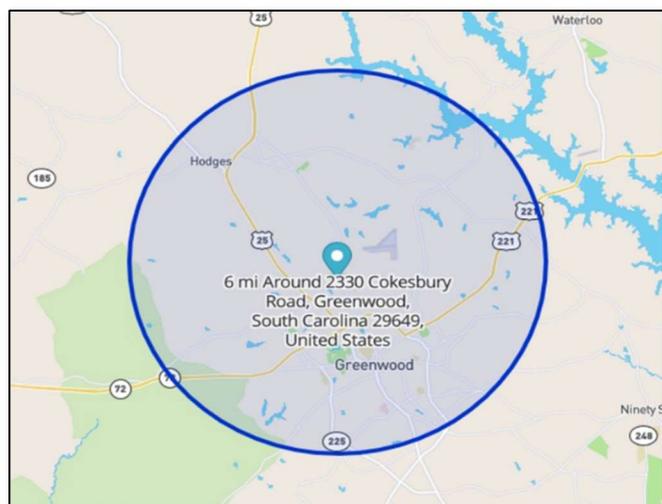
The parable of the Good Samaritan is familiar to many as being Jesus’ answer to the legal eagle who was trying to define—and possibly finagle—exactly *who* qualified to be treated as his neighbor (Luke 10:25-37). Through that lesson, we already understand that *everyone* we encounter, whether friend, foe, or stranger, is our neighbor and deserves our love and care to help meet their needs.

But how do we know what their needs *are*, both physical and spiritual??

Because Westminster is committed to reaching and serving our unchurched neighbors, we’ve formed an ad hoc team that is using demographic data as one avenue for understanding our literal, physical neighbors. The researchers at the Presbyterian Foundation have provided, at no charge to us, a series of detailed reports describing in depth the households located within a 6-mile radius of our campus on Cokesbury Road.

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> was the kickoff meeting for the group, which is made up of Lucia Horowitz, Bill Kimler, Denise Waldrep, Richard Wilson, Caroline Dennis, and Claire Kuhl.

To lay groundwork for the discussion, Bill presented an overview of general demographic truths and trends for Greenwood County. Claire then challenged each participant to take portions of the research reports provided and do a deep dive into one or more of the demographic segments found in our surrounding area. Stay



tuned to hear about their findings. Contact Claire or the church office if you are interested in bringing your analytical skills and commitment to Christ to this initiative.

## Westminster Scores Big on Souper Bowl Sunday!

Thanks to strong leadership from our Team Captain, Laine Horowitz, and her cadre of young cheerleaders, Westminster trounced our Souper Bowl opponent—



hunger in Greenwood.

Your generous gifts moved us confidently down the field, more than doubling our \$300 goal, with

\$702 actually collected. All contributions were given to our friends and mission partners at the **Greenwood Soup Kitchen Ministry**. Congratulations to all on a fine showing. Yay, team!!!

## Presbyterian Women Seeking Sabbath

All Women of Westminster, are encouraged to participate in the monthly circle meeting and Bible study on Monday, March 13. The meeting convenes at 10:00 A.M. in the Sunday School Room.



The lesson for this session is Chapter 6, Sabbath and Hospitality. You will also be invited to join in planning for future mission projects and other activities.

Mary...sat at Jesus' feet and listened to what He was saying.

Luke 10:39

## A Tip of the Hat to...

...all of the folks newly bringing their talents to the fore in service to God and our congregation! For example:



- Maggie Raborn, as vocalist, liturgist, and newest member of W&M
- Bill Kimler, as liturgist, Tech Team, and data-diver (see page 6)
- Nancy Hart Wicker, Becca Lewis, Christy Irons, and Denise Waldrep as clean-up team following the latest Food for Thought supper
- Ody Sholar, as liturgist
- Josh Wicker, as founder of Game Day and newcomer to Congregational Care
- Oliver Gouldsmith, as new volunteer on Nurture & Education

Thanks and blessings to these and others!

## It's Party Time!

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with March birthdays:

- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> – Steve Kuhl
- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> – Theresa Jacobs
- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> – Caris Broadway
- ❖ 28<sup>th</sup> – Rob Graves

Additionally, let's rejoice with these fine couples who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries this month:

- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> – Caroline & Phillip Dennis
- ❖ 31<sup>st</sup> – Charisma & Joseph Broadway



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# See You at the Lake—Keeping Greenwood County Beautiful

*Submitted by Nancy Hart Wicker*

Come one! Come all! Westminster Presbyterian Church is joining Keep Greenwood Beautiful to participate in a Lake Greenwood Cleanup on March 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. We will split up between Lake Greenwood State Park and Camp Fellowship, and meet up afterward for lunch at Break on the Lake.



If you would like to attend, please register at <https://keepgcb.org/programs/> for either Camp Fellowship or Lake Greenwood State Park, and then let me know at [nhwicker@gmail.com](mailto:nhwicker@gmail.com), so I will know to keep you in the loop about lunch plans. This was a very fun event last year, and I hope you will join. This is the perfect service opportunity for kids, as well.

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## Speaking of the Lake, Is your Boat Fit to Float?

*Submitted by Ricky McCarson*

I am a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the volunteer civilian branch of the Coast Guard. The Auxiliary assists in all missions of the Coast Guard other than direct law enforcement and military operations.



The Auxiliary's main mission is recreational boating safety. I am a qualified Vessel Examiner and can conduct Vessel Safety Checks. If you are a boat owner and would like a courtesy, no-consequence Vessel Safety Check, you can email me at [aux.r.mccarson@gmail.com](mailto:aux.r.mccarson@gmail.com) or speak to me after a Sunday Service.

Additional info about the Vessel Safety Check program can be found at the following link: <https://cgaux.org/vsc/>. The Auxiliary is always recruiting. Reach out if you may be interested in joining and carrying out this important mission, and enjoying fun and fellowship in the process. You can find more information at: <https://www.cgaux.org/>.

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## 2023 Spring Church Grounds Clean-Up Day

March 11<sup>th</sup> is the date for the annual Buildings & Grounds spring workday at WPC. Outside, we will be trimming hedges, spreading pine straw, weeding, and sprucing up the courtyard. Please bring work gloves if you have them, along with any gardening tools you might have.

If you are unable to participate in outside activities, the chairs of our program areas, such as Worship & Music and Nurture & Education, may have some inside projects you could participate in.

Contact David Hammond for more information about available projects.



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## Save the Date: April 8 Easter Egg Event

The Nurture & Christian Education, Mission & Outreach, and Congregational Care Committees have hatched plans for a fun Easter event on the church grounds on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The goal is to offer our merry band of little ones something festive, fun, and educational—hunting for eggs, hearing the beautiful stories of Jesus, and understanding why eggs are part of the Christian Easter tradition. Candy and baskets are lovely, but the joyful good news of the Resurrection is even better!



## Serenity

*Submitted by Joyce Alexander*

The cloak of serenity  
Is warm to the touch,  
Crafted with threads  
Of acceptance,  
Sewn carefully with wisdom.  
May I wear it  
With the knowledge  
Of its impact  
And the grace  
Of its design.  
May it always remind  
Me of its influence.  
May I always  
Appreciate  
It as a special gift.



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## New Member Spotlight: Denise Waldrep

Denise has been a friend of Westminster for many months now, and we have already been blessed by her right-brained *and* left-brained talents: artist, vocalist, science teacher, and data-diver.

Denise is an avid traveler, and can often be found seeking enlightenment through time spent in spiritual retreats. Here are her answers to our silly...I mean, significant... traditional questions:

1. **What gives you joy?** Being creative.
2. **What drives you crazy?** Smacking and eating noises make me crazy—I have *misophonia*.<sup>1</sup>
3. **What is your favorite piece of music?** Aaron Copland’s “Appalachian Spring Suite,” if I have to pick only one!
4. **What’s your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** I enjoy exploring new ideas.
5. **What’s your favorite meal?** A colorful one.



*Photos of Denise Waldrep and Claire Kuhl (page 17) provided by Nicole McCarson, Hunny Bee Photography.*

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<sup>1</sup> From Merriam-Webster, “a condition in which one or more common sounds (such as the ticking of a clock, the hum of a fluorescent light, or the chewing or breathing of another person) cause an atypical emotional response (such as disgust, distress, panic, or anger) in the affected person hearing the sound.”

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## New Member Spotlight: The Yonce Family

Westminster's live-streaming ministry is an unexpected blessing from the pandemic. The Yonces—Glenn, Gail, and their daughter, Georgiana—were looking for a church where they would be welcomed and accepted, found us through the Westminster website, and



reached out to our pastor to learn more about us. They connected with us online and have now been faithful remote worshippers for more than two years.

Because Glenn suffers from a debilitating chronic illness, most Sundays the family must worship with us from home. And they are faithful in doing so, even telling others about Westminster by sharing our Westminster Facebook posts. Glenn is a faithful prayer warrior, always responding to our "Please Pray with Me Emails" with a quick praying hands response.

Sometimes Gail and Georgiana are able to join us in person for worship and fellowship activities, such as Sunday sustenance, Christmas tree decorating, and Friday Forays. Gail especially appreciates how our congregation and the other children have welcomed Georgiana.

This family of three has three dogs (Tru, Sammy, and Marty—all female) and are raising a new flock of laying hens. For fun, Georgiana especially loves frolicking in the lake.

Gail (pictured above) found time to share with us her answers to our questions:

1. **What gives you joy?** My family.
2. **What drives you crazy?** Pets.
3. **What is your favorite type of music?** Pop music.
4. **What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Read.
5. **What's your favorite meal?** Steak.

When we pass the peace during worship, be sure to wave at the camera to show we are thinking of and praying for our new members, Gail, Glenn, and Georgiana!

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*be quick to*  
**listen**

SLOW TO SPEAK  
AND SLOW TO  
BECOME ANGRY  
-JAMES 1:19

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## Stewardship Snapshot

The Stewardship Snapshot is a regular report from the Session to the *Westminster Times* newsletter. Please note that because of the newsletter publication schedule vs. timing of month-end close, these reports will typically be about six weeks behind.



### January 2023

	January Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	\$25,352	\$17,529	\$25,352	\$17,529
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$16,767	\$17,035	\$16,767	\$17,035
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	\$8,585		\$8,585	

The remarkably high income received in January reflects the gifts of families who chose to pay their entire pledge in full at the beginning of the year. The lower-than-expected expense figure is at least partly attributable to salary savings because of the Office Manager position opening.

*Please direct any questions about church financial matters to our treasurer, Len Bornemann, or any member of the Business Affairs Committee.*

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## Easter Sunday Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

*Submitted by Laine Horowitz*



The **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering will be collected on Easter morning this year. It is one of the largest PC(USA) special offerings. At Westminster, we are aiming to get the whole church involved—young and old.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering goes to three awesome PC(USA) missions: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and the Self-Development of People (SDP) program.

PDA assists in the most recent disaster events *and* over the long haul, having granted over \$3.1 million in the United States and 15 countries worldwide, all thanks to concerned Presbyterians like us. PHP has given 80 grants, affecting 23 countries. We're not just talking about handing out food. PHP is all about alleviating hunger *and* eliminating its causes. As someone who is leaning toward a career in restorative justice, the SDP program is a particular favorite of mine. Its core strategies are to promote justice, build stronger communities, and seek economic equality.

You'll find bulletin inserts, envelopes, and fish banks (for kids of all ages) on the table in the Narthex for your information and for you to put your offering in. Make out checks to Westminster, and put "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line. Please think about what being a Presbyterian in today's world means to you and pray about how you can help "the least of these." We are blessed as a church family. Let's spread that blessing around!

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## Lenten Pilgrimage Continues

You are cordially invited to participate in the Greenwood Lenten Pilgrimage. Join us on Wednesdays for worship at 12:30 P.M. at these locations:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Immanuel Lutheran Church
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark UMC Church, River Street Campus
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – South Main Baptist Church
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – First Baptist Church

Lunch is offered both before and after worship. Cost is \$2.00 per person.

## Live in Harmony

Romans 12:16 admonishes us to “Live in harmony with one another.” But what does that mean? Does living in harmony mean living completely without conflict?

Actually, living in harmony relies on effectively *managing* conflict—both seeking constructive conflict and learning how to successfully navigate destructive conflict.

Seeking to avoid *all* conflict results in “group think,” which ultimately stifles innovation and discourages healthy risk-taking. See page 20 for some tips on building common ground to overcome interpersonal conflict.

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## 2023 Report from Mental Health America

Excerpted from <https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/2023-State-of-Mental-Health-in-America-Report.pdf>

Mental Health America (MHA) is the nation’s leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and promoting the overall mental health of all. MHA’s work is driven by its commitment to promote mental health as a critical part of overall wellness, including prevention services for all; early identification and intervention for those at risk; and integrated care, services, and supports for those who need them, all with recovery as the goal.



The sample findings presented below reflect analysis of a collection of data from across all 50 states and the District of Columbia:

- 21% of adults are experiencing mental illness (equivalent to over 50 million Americans)
- 15% of adults had a substance use disorder in the past year, of which 93.5% did *not* receive treatment
- 4.8% of adults reported serious thoughts of suicide (over 12.1 million adults)
- 16% of youth report suffering from at least one major depressive episode in the past year (more than 2.7 million youth)
- 60% of youth with major depression do not receive mental health treatment
- 55% of adults with a mental illness receive no treatment (over 28 million individuals)

If you or someone you know experiences symptoms that suggest mental health concerns, reach out to your primary care physician for assistance, or contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. 988 has been designated as a three-digit dialing code that will connect callers to trained counselors who are part of the Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how callers are affected by their problems, provide them with support, and connect them to other resources, if necessary.

# Greenwood Place Update

Submitted by Fred Murphy, Executive Director



**GREENWOOD PLACE**

The International Standards for a Clubhouse Program are the structural basis for a successful program. These Standards, consensually agreed upon by the worldwide Clubhouse community, define the clubhouse Model of rehabilitation. The principles expressed in these Standards are at the heart of the Clubhouse community's success in helping people with mental illness to stay out of the hospital while achieving social, financial, educational and vocational goals. The Standards also serve as a "bill of rights" for members and a code of ethics for staff, board and administrators. The Standards insist that a Clubhouse is a place that offers respect and opportunity to its members.

Following is some history of Greenwood Place since its opening in October of 2016. Looking back, Greenwood Place successfully reached out to our local community and provided a much-needed rehabilitative service to our members. It experienced rapid growth in its first few years and was on pace to continue that growth until COVID interrupted those plans in 2020 and 2021.

Totals	Members on Roll	Average Attendance	Hours Attendance	# Employed	# Meals Served	# Transport	# Hospitalized
2016	2		27	0			
2017	26	4	2,007	1			1
2018	55	17	10,562	5	2,483	732	2
2019	64	18	10,525	8	3,611	1,810	7
2020	66	8	7,172	4	3,467	1,408	4
2021	66	7	6,181	5	1,474	1,197	3
2022	65	8	7,389	6	1,875	1,775	4
Jan 2023	66	8	539	6	126	118	0

The month of January saw us move out of our holiday season and back to our normal work-ordered day at the Clubhouse. We did welcome a new member to the Clubhouse, Daquarea Lewis. For the month of January, we experienced a slight increase in daily participation and as average attendance rose to 8 per day.



Our Social for January was a trip to China Garden for lunch. For February, we are planning a trip to EXPO 300 to go bowling. Traditionally, this has been one of our favorite social activities.

Greenwood Place continues to work with Gateway in Greenville, and with the State of SC to see if we can obtain future funding for the Clubhouse. In addition, we will be looking for new leadership for the Clubhouse both on our Board and our staff.

*Thank you to Westminster Presbyterian for your continued support and prayers!*

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## Let Us Pray...



### For Those in Our Church

*We share one another's joys and concerns:*

- John & Mishie Bacot
- Mary Corley
- Kathy Felder
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Kelli Lott & daughters Savannah and Gabby
- Meg Templin Smith, niece of M. A. Wilson
- Ed Watkins
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, and Georgiana
- Our pastor and her family, staff, elders

*"...if we ask anything according to God's will, we are heard."*

*John 5:14b*

*We pray daily for our prayer partners and their special concerns. We pray for our sister churches: New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and others.*

*We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:*

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank of Greenwood
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries
- Camp Fellowship
- Community Initiatives/TLC



### For Those in Our Hearts

*We pray for these members of our wider community:*

- Betsey Blimline
- Chris Brown
- Judy Buck
- Lib Colough
- Ted Colcolough
- Nancy Cooper
- Dean & Albert Fadden
- David Gillespie
- Lois Grice
- Beverly Grier
- Stephanie & Eve Horton
- Joan Herin
- Michael Knight
- Corrie Manis
- Family of Charlie Mauldin
- Ben & Heather Marcengill
- Danny Murphy
- Terence Reese
- Trae Steelmon
- Dave Watson
- Abigail
- Candy
- Diana
- Geri
- JK
- Savannah



### For the World

*We pray for our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love:*

- For true peace on earth, good will toward all of humanity
- For a positive conclusion to the war in the Ukraine
- For all those suffering from natural disasters, especially in Syria and Turkey
- For healing in communities everywhere that are affected by gun violence
- For wise leadership at every level in our community, country, and world
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For all who experience exclusion, or who struggle to meet basic needs
- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For unity among Christians in every congregation, country, and corner of the world
- For those serving in the American armed services, especially those in harm's way
- For our enemies, that their hearts may be transformed by your love and truth

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## And God Saw That It Was Good...



Digging into Ash Wednesday



Blessing our new children's area rug



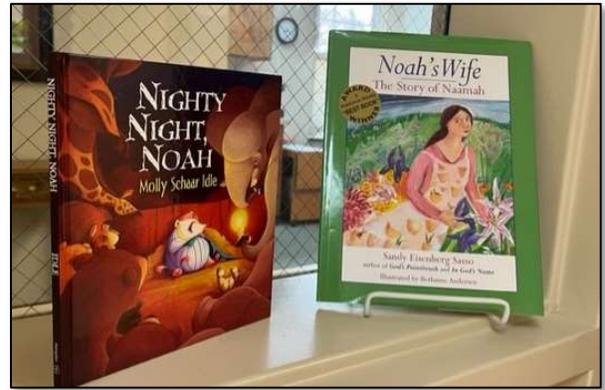
Beautiful new rug for children's area given in memory of Lynn Bornemann

## All Aboard the Ark!

For the past few weeks during Sunday school, our children have been learning about Noah and the Ark.

We started by talking about Noah's obedience to God. We learned about the building of the ark and the gathering and loading of animals, two by two. We even went outside and mapped out just how big the Ark was, according to the Bible.

We also learned about how God kept Noah and his family safe during the flood and about waiting for the dove to discover dry land.



← This photo of a rainbow behind the wooden ark displayed in the hall is a group project created by the children.

The ark below was also a group project, created by the kids using stickers. ↓



For their next project, the children have started drawing Rainbow Gardens, but have not finished. These are "works in progress."

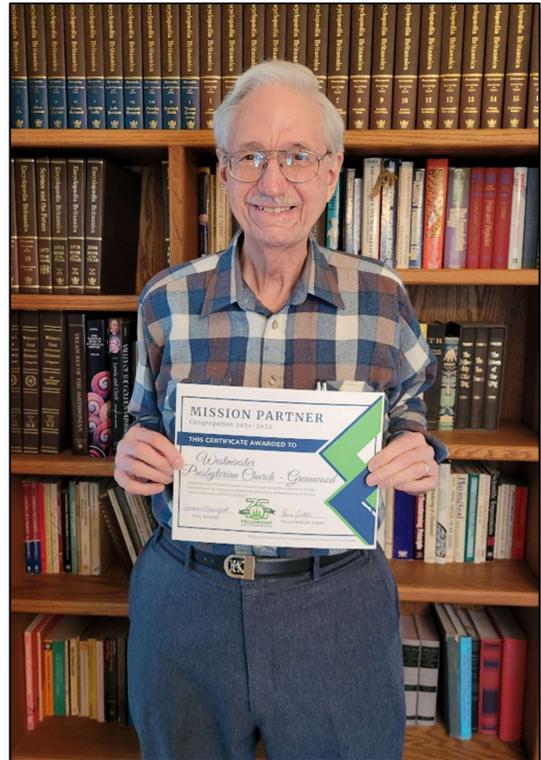


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## Westminster Well Represented at Presbytery Meeting



Pastor Caroline presented a report from the Development Resource Team



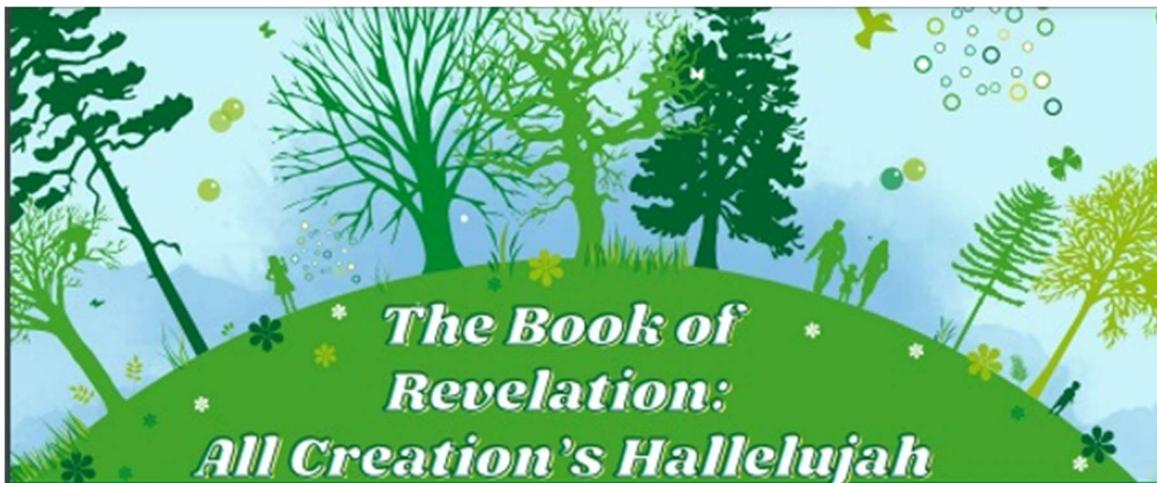
Clerk of Session Steve accepted WPC's mission partner certificate



Elder Claire was installed as Vice Moderator of Trinity Presbytery



Pastor Kevin celebrated Camp Fellowship's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## **Spring Adult Retreat - April 21-22, 2023**

*No book of the Bible has spawned as many divergent interpretations as the Revelation to John. It contains passages that are as beautiful and comforting as any in the scriptures, but it also includes passages that are baffling and terrifying. Its rich symbolism fosters a bewildering array of possible interpretations; yet, not every interpretation is appropriate. In this study, we will consider aspects of the book's historical, literary, and theological dimensions, as well as its relevance for the past and present, as we seek to "hear what the Spirit is saying" about Jesus Christ who lives as the Lamb who has been slain, calls for faithful endurance, conquers evil, renews creation, and rules forever as the Lord God Almighty over all of creation.*

### **Location, Fees, and Hosts**



**FELLOWSHIP**  
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER  
457 Camp Fellowship Road  
Waterloo, South Carolina 29384

Fellowship Camp and Conference Center and Trinity Presbytery's Adult Retreat Focus Group of the Discipleship Resource Team are pleased to sponsor this annual retreat. Thanks to this partnership, we are able to offer an incredible learning and retreat experience at a wonderful value for participants.

#### **Fees**

\$85 double occupancy    \$125 single occupancy  
\$65 commuter/day participant  
Friday Picnic Lunch - Bring your own or \$10.00

### **Keynote Speaker**

**Dr. Robert A. Bryant (Bob)** is the Kristen Herrington Professor of Bible at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, and a minister member of Trinity Presbytery. He has served churches as Pastor and Stated Supply Pastor in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. He also teaches for lay schools of theology in a number of presbyteries and contributes to the development of Christian Education curricula. He is the author of *The Risen Crucified Christ in Galatians*, *The Gospel of Matthew: God With Us*, *First Corinthians: One In Christ*, and soon to be published *The Book of Revelation: All Creation's Hallelujah*. He has also written numerous articles, is a frequent lecturer, and enjoys hiking and canoeing. He and his wife live in Clinton, SC, and have two adult children.



**Find More Information & Register Online**

**[www.campfellowship.org/springretreat](http://www.campfellowship.org/springretreat)**

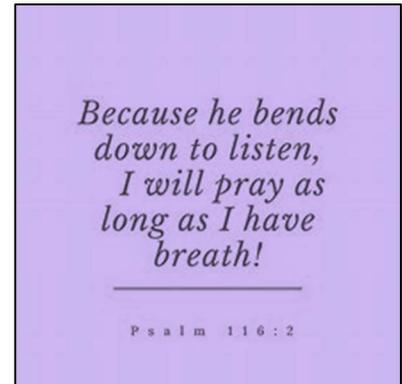
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# Five “Ps” of Prayer

*Excerpted from Session 1 of Pray First Bible Study by Chris Hodges*

## **The PRIORITY of Prayer**

God listens to our prayers and answers our prayers at any time throughout the day, but there’s something special about giving prayer a place — a priority — in our lives. Set aside a quiet time with God in the morning by putting God on your calendar. Actually give God a space in your schedule at the beginning of the day.



## **The PLACE of Prayer**

In Mark 1:35, we read that Jesus would retreat to a special *place* to pray. If Jesus had a special place to pray, you should have a special place as well. It’s not that you can’t pray in other places, or that you will always pray in the same location, but find a primary place where you will pray.

## **The PLAN of Prayer**

Prayer is simply having a conversation with God, but it’s important to go into that conversation with a plan. Think about who and what you want to bring to God in prayer. Remember how Jesus taught us to pray:

*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. Lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!*

## **The POWER of Prayer**

Prayer is a conversation with God and a spiritual experience. In Acts 4:29, we read the prayer that the disciples Peter and John prayed after being released from prison. They asked for God to enable them to speak his word with boldness. Likewise, we need to pray bold prayers, believing God will perform mighty acts on our behalf.

## **The PERSON of Prayer**

Prayer is not about prayer for the sake of praying. Prayer is about the Person to whom the prayers are directed. You are spending time with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In 2 Corinthians 13:14, Paul mentions all three members of the Trinity:

Jesus is the mediator. He is the one delivering our prayers to God. He is the one who made it possible through the cross.

God is the Father who loves his children. We don’t come crawling before God in prayer, but sit at God’s feet like someone we love and respect.

The Holy Spirit is the friend. The Spirit is always present and with us every moment of our lives.

*Amen and amen!*

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## Ten Principles for Building Common Ground with Someone Who Frustrates You



1. **Listen more, talk less.** It's difficult to know where you have common ground with someone if you're the one doing all the talking. Study the other person.
2. **Look for points of agreement, no matter how small.** A small place where two people come together can become a large area of common commitment over time. No affinity or agreement is too small to start building on.
3. **Seek to understand more than to be understood.** Try to see the world from their perspective. Listen to not only their words, but feeling and emotions, too. Everybody has a story, if you'll stop long enough to hear it.
4. **Allow understanding to increase appreciation.** As you understand someone's point of view, you can begin to appreciate it. Appreciation is not agreement, but it does lead to more generosity in the relationship.
5. **Develop empathy where common experiences emerge.** Empathy bonds us to each other, and it leads us to stand in solidarity with others during their struggle. Suffering connects in ways success cannot.
6. **Encourage others during their struggles.** Offering a note of encouragement, compassion, or gratitude as they battle in an area can disarm them and encourage their efforts. No one is *over*-encouraged.
7. **Anticipate the discomfort.** A mentor once said, "Nothing will mess with your religion and politics more than meeting someone on the other side and discovering that you like them." Common ground is not for the faint of heart, but the discomfort transforms us.
8. **Find something to work together on and celebrate the outcome.** Common ground is a great idea, but it's an even better practice. Common ground leads us to common work. My relationships with those who sometimes frustrate me begin to change when we work together on something we both care about.
9. **Focus on what you enjoy and appreciate, not what frustrates you.** Frustration is inevitable, but keep your attention on what you enjoy and appreciate. It's amazing how much your focus determines your perspective.
10. **Give thanks for how diversity helps you grow.** People who are just like us rarely challenge us or stimulate us. However, those who are different from us tend to challenge and sharpen us. The person who drives you nuts may be helping you to get better than you've ever been.

*From "Be a Common Grounder"  
ThinDifference.com*