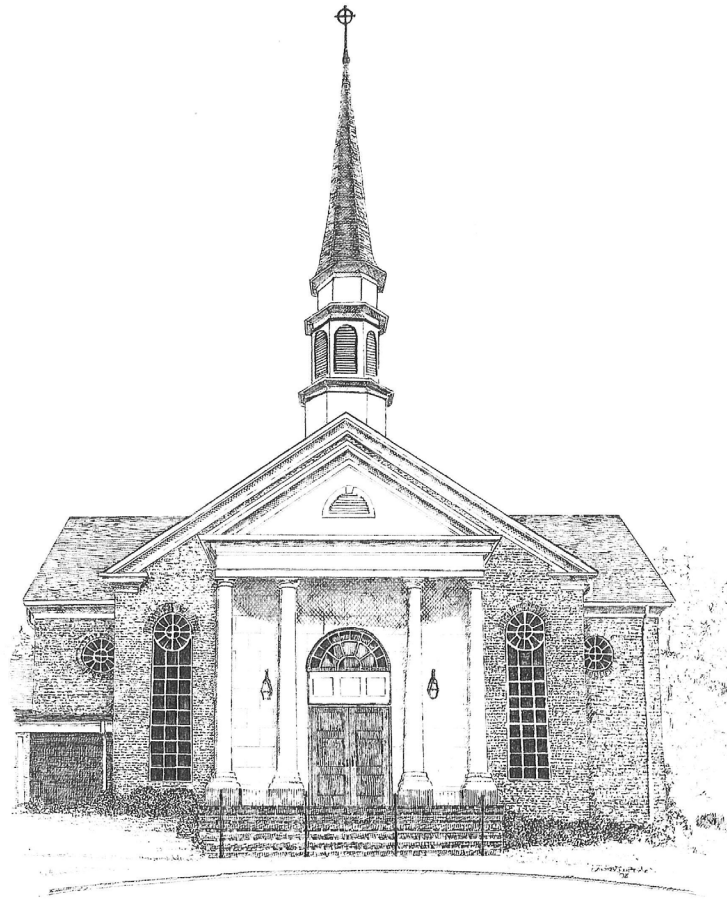


Westminster Presbyterian Church



An Inclusive Community of Faith
United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ

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
September 17, 2023

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming the Hour

Prelude

Words of Scripture

Psalm 133:1

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

Welcome and Announcements

Kathy Felder

Minute for Mission

Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
Steve Kuhl

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 103:1-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

Bless God's holy name.

God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

Bless God's holy name.

***Hymn #478**

"Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LAUDA ANIMA

A Worship Note for our Families: We are being intentional about choosing opening hymns with repeated refrains. Help your child find the page in the hymnal and show them "their part." This week, their part is the "Alleluias" which basically means, "Hurray for God!"

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!*

*Praise him for his grace and favor
To his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!*

*Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!*

*Angels, help us to adore him;
You behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Nurturing God, you desire to gather your children under your wing with loving care. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen to each other. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it together. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in our relationships, and be transformed through your steadfast love.

Pause for personal prayer.

In Christ's name and for Christ's sake, we offer these prayers. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***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.*

***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

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he

refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Katie Henderson

“Forgiveness and Stuff”

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

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 #304**

“Jesus Loves Me”

JESUS LOVES ME

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

***Doxology**

***Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Confession of Faith**

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.

***Hymn #261**

“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

O QUANTA QUALIA

*God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
Giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.*

*Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
Guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.*

*How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
You who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
We who walk forth in your greatness confiding?*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

*The sanctuary flowers this Sunday are given by Steve and Claire Kuhl
in honor of Gloria Jones, Godmother to the Kuhl's.*

Serving Today at Westminster

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Organ: | Claire Kuhl |
| Vocalist: | Laura Margaret |
| Liturgist: | Kathy Felder |
| Host: | Watkins Family |
| Tech Team: | Bill Kimler and Steve Kuhl |
| Sunday Study: | Len Bornemann |
| Children's Sunday School: | Kathy Gillespie and Tina Corley |

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 |
| Sunday Sustenance | 11:00 am | Fellowship Hall |

This Week at Westminster

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Office Hours: | 9:00 – 1:00 | M-Th | |
| Mindful Greenwood | 6:30 – 7:30 | Tuesday | Parlor |
| Brown Bags and Books | 6:00 – 7:30 | Wednesday | Fellowship Hall |
| <i>Deadline for contributions to Ukraine Relief, Wednesday the 20th</i> | | | |
| Rainbow Fellowship | 6:00 – 8:00 | Thursday | Fellowship Hall |

Next Sunday, September 24

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| 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 |
| Youth Group | 5:00–7:00 pm | Youth Room |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help for the Ukraine The Mission & Outreach Committee is mobilizing to help Christy Irons gather much-needed infant formula and basic medical supplies to take with her when she travels there at the end of the month. On Sunday, September 10th and 17th, a special collection receptacle will be available in the narthex to collect your donations.

September 20th is the deadline for all contributions. Contact Christy for more information. And please pray for her safety as she journeys into this war-torn part of the world.

Youth Group Gathering on September 24th Meet in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. to engage with other middle school and high school students. Snack supper, devotion and games. Bring a friend!

We'd like to hear from you! The Worship & Music Committee is looking forward to getting your feedback about our worship experiments and experiences through the summer. Click on this link and spend 10-15 minutes completing the online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPC-2023-Summer>

Not fond of online stuff? Good news! Paper copies of the survey are available in the narthex on Sunday, September 10th and 17th. You can fill those out and slip them into the drop box by the office door. Survey responses will be anonymous. Results will be helpful to the W&M Committee in future planning. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held at the end of worship on Sunday, October 1. The purpose of the meeting is to receive and act on the report of the Nominating Committee offering the following slate of officers:

Elder Class of 2026

Richard Wilson
Laine Horowitz

Nominating Committee Class of 2024

Claire Kuhl, chairperson
Bill Jacobs
Elizabeth Watkins

Special Offering Today we are receiving a special offering to support the work of our Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Team. Our funding goal is \$5000 to be used for the purchase of two AEDs, two First Aid Kits, and training. Thank you for helping us provide this important emergency equipment for those who gather in this building to worship, play, learn, and serve.

Cluster Gathering: Members, Friends, Elders, Pastors, and Staff of the twelve PCUSA churches in McCormick, Greenwood, and Abbeville Counties, comprise the Western Cluster of Trinity Presbytery. That's who is invited to the Cluster Gathering in our Fellowship Hall on September 25. That means that you are invited too! The cluster is gathering to view the live broadcast of the keynote address offered by United Methodist Church Bishop, author, and seminary professor, Will Willimon to the Henderson Conference at Pittsburgh Seminary. Dr. Willimon has been listening to pastors and congregations in hundreds of American churches and has a hopeful Christ-centered message for small churches and their leaders. We hope you will join us. Doors open at 6:30. Lecture begins at 7:00. Dessert reception included in this free event.

Bible Study Opportunity! Are you looking for a different kind of Bible study? Are you curious about the history, culture, and languages of the Bible? If so, join us as we begin an amazing journey through the Bible based on the BEMA podcast.

This study, taught by Jewish Christian and theologian Marty Solomon, is rich with original text information, cultural context, literary structure, and the big picture takeaway messages. Marty's teachings encourage and give you space to wrestle with the text and ask better questions of the Bible. Jacob wrestled with God (Genesis 32:22-32) and emerged from the experience changed. This study will answer questions, have you asking more questions, and leave you changed with knowledge and information you may have never encountered.

Please join us to learn more about it on Monday, October 2, 6-7 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in the fellowship hall. If you're not available on the 2nd but want to know more, call or email Gloria Christie with your questions: 864-379-5034 or ggchristie716@gmail.com.

Please Welcome to our Pulpit Today, Katie Henderson

Katie Henderson currently serves as the Assistant Director of Programs at Fellowship Camp and Conference Center. At age 16, Katie began to discern God's call in her life to serve in camping and retreat ministry. Over the past decade, God has provided her with endless opportunities to love creation and explore faith with the young and the young at heart. Katie is passionate about the care of God's creation and creating opportunities for people to explore and deepen their faith. Katie is currently seeking ordination through PC(USA) and is under the care of Mission Presbytery in Texas. Katie grew up on the South Texas coast in Rockport, TX. She majored in Corporate Communications at the University of Texas at Austin and graduated with her Master of Divinity at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.





Friend of Westminster, Ginny Cartee, is our artist of the week. Ginny makes it a practice to study the lectionary texts for each week and then to create a piece of art related to the texts. This is her artistic reflection on the lectionary for Sunday, September 17 along with her reflections:

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114:1-8

Matthew 18:21-35

Reading from the bottom the weeds in the foreground represent the confusion God sent on the Egyptian army and the confusion we face when we fail to focus on the truth of God's Word. The small garden fence represents the sanctuary provided through knowing the Word.

The purple stalks growing among the tangled leaves represent the weak made strong, the blue bells represent every bowing knee and confessing tongue, and the yellow flowers represent Jesus. The yellow flowers are made from a Joy Cross and a

Square. Yellow represents the eternal kingdom, the cross represents the suffering of Christ as a sign of salvation and the square represents strength from the stability of the New Covenant. The Pink Grace Roses represent both grace and gratitude. The "G..." in the center of each rose represents the Grace from God and the grace we are to show each other. The pink color represents gratitude. The thorns on the rose stems represent both punishment and protection. The green leaves represent life. The stone wall behind the garden represents the protection God sent Israel when they faced the Egyptian army. The Israelites saw and they believed. By knowing the Word we are called to see and believe.

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”



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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.

CCLI License #2724601 and #20189191