



THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

Westminster Presbyterian Church

is called by God to be an inclusive community of faith,
abiding in God's love, and committed to:
Enjoying God, Following Jesus, and Growing Disciples

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.

The Sanctuary is a Place of Reverence and Worship

In order that our worship might be meaningful to all, please enter the sanctuary reverently. The narthex or courtyard are good places to visit with friends before or after worship. Use the moments before worship to prepare your heart, mind, and body for worship, centering yourself in the space and quieting your heart. It may be helpful to listen quietly to the prelude, find the hymns we will be singing, meditate on the scriptures we will be reading.

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.

Please take children to the restroom before worship. If you need to leave the sanctuary during worship, please use the exits at the rear of the sanctuary. Please avoid walking through the courtyard during worship. We ask that families sit together during worship. Please do not let any child move unaccompanied through the building.

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
Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming the Hour

Prelude

Words of Scripture

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Welcome and Announcements

Gloria Christie

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 61:1-5

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.
From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint.

**Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,
for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.**

Let me abide in your tent forever,
find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

***Hymn #301**

“Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

301 Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

THE CHURCH

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sheltering God, under your wings we find safety, within the walls of your love we are protected from our enemies. Nurturing God, your voice is always ready to instruct us in the ways that we should go, your hand is extended to us, full of good things. Compassionate God, when you made Adam, you said to yourself, “it is not good that man should be alone,” and you fashioned for Adam a companion.

You have provided for the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of your children. We give you thanks for these provisions. Forgive us Lord when we do not share in your work of providing these for your children young and old in our neighborhood and in our world.

We pause for a time of personal prayer.

By your Spirit, make us mindful of those in need of shade from the heat of the sun, loving shelter from their enemies, gentle guidance, and faithful companionship, that we might join in your mission in the world, and all might know the peace we have found in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Response of Praise**

Hymn #582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
 and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.
 World without end, without end. Amen.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

***Passing the Peace**

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

Time for All God's Children

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 19:13-15

¹³ Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Meeting the People Who Bless the Children

Hymn #658

"God Is So Good"

GOD IS SO GOOD

God Is So Good

658

1 God is so good; God is so good;
 2 God cares for me; God cares for me;
 3 God loves me so; God loves me so;
 4 God is so good; God is so good;

God is so good; God's so good to me.
 God cares for me; God's so good to me.
 God loves me so; God's so good to me.
 God is so good; God's so good to me.

The exact origins of this chorus celebrating God's providential care are not clear, but it seems to have arisen during the 1970s. Because the text changes so little, the slowly rising four-note pattern of the tune provides the primary source of energy within its five-note range.

TEXT and MUSIC: Anon.

GOD IS SO GOOD
4.4.4.5

Prayer for the Children and Those Who Shelter and Nurture Them

32 See, a king will reign in righteousness,
 and princes will rule with justice.
 2 Each will be like a hiding place from the wind,
 a covert from the tempest,
 like streams of water in a dry place,
 like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.

Reading from the Epistles

Ephesians 2:11-22

11 So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, 15 abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16 and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. 17 So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, 18 for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; 21 in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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

Anthem

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”
Joyce Alexander

Gabriel

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

**“The Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual
 Fellowship of the Children of God”**

*You are being built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.
 Ephesians 2:22*

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

*Hymn #837

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

SHOWALTER

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus,

lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 lean-ing on Je-sus,

ing, lean-ing,
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.

***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**

***Affirmation of Faith**

Confession of 1967 9.20

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in us. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, God gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all people.

***Hymn #306**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS

Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

*The sanctuary flowers this week are given by
Lou Johnson & Elizabeth Ann Green
in memory of Larry Dozier.*

Serving Today at Westminster

Organist:	Claire Kuhl
Vocalist:	Joyce Alexander
Liturgist:	Gloria Christie
Host:	Marvin & Ginny Cartee
Sunday Study:	Spears Alexander
Children's Sunday School	Kathy Gillespie and Karl Schwarzmann

Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys Room (<i>Adults</i>)
Welcome to Westminster	9:00 am	Fellowship Hall
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 & Misson Fair	11:15 am	Fellowship Hall

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	M-Th	
Zoom Prayers	12:00 NOON	Monday	
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 pm	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Books & Brown Bags	6:00 pm	Wednesday	Joe Gettys Classroom
PFLAG Meeting	6:00 pm	Thursday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Virtual Study Group	7:00 pm	Thursday	Google Meet
Meditation	10:00 am	Saturday	Fellowship Hall
Walk to Fight Hunger	7:30 am	Saturday	Jeff May Sports Complex

Next Sunday, April 26

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys Room (<i>Adults</i>)
Welcome to Westminster	9:00 am	Fellowship Hall
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
BaGs Meeting	11:15 am	Choir Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Opportunities at Westminster

Sunday Adult Study: Spears Alexander leads our discussion of *Mere Christianity*, Book 3, Chapters 1-2. This class meets in the Joe Gettys Room.

Books and Brown Bags will continue their discussion of *Evidence Not Seen* by Darlene Deibler Rose.

Welcome to Westminster: This class is for new members and visitors contemplating membership. Pastor Dennis will be joined by special guests for this six-week series. This class meets in Fellowship Hall. Session 2 on April 19 will focus on the topic on Holy Scripture, Holy God. Our special guest is Luke Christie who will share with us the Westminster Mission and Vision.

Virtual Study Group The Thursday Virtual Study group continues through May with a "Who? What? When? Where? Why?" study focused on Psalms and Gospel passages listed in the lectionary. Our goal will be to discover the context of scripture as we seek a better understanding of the message. Mary Frances Thompson and Ginny Cartee invite anyone interested in giving this group a try. The class meets Thursdays at 7:00 pm on-line using Google Meet.

Use this link to join the meeting: <https://meet.google.com/dae-qynz-bim>

[The Six Great Ends of the Church Worship Series](#)

For the next six weeks at WPC, we are centering our worship around the theme of the Great Ends of the Church, which are a set of six mission statements for the PCUSA that are the heart of who the church is and what the church is called to do. The banners on the front of the order of worship each illustrate one of the great ends.

Week 2: The Shelter and Spiritual Nurture of the Children of God Mission Sunday Today we focus on the second great end: *the shelter and spiritual nurture of the children of God* and the second banner of our order of worship cover art: Note the multi-hued hands represent all the children of God. The dove's wings are tipped downward, sheltering the people of God. The triangle of light links the dove to the people.

It is our pleasure today to host three of Westminster's partner ministries: Thornwell, Foster the City, and Community Initiatives. With these organizations, WPC is seeking to shelter and nurture children within and beyond our walls. Plan to join us for lunch after worship to learn more about the important work of each of these ministry partners. Sunday Sustenance Offering on this Mission Sunday will support foster families in Greenwood through the work of Foster the City.

Sally Kauffmann Walk to Fight Hunger The Food Bank of Lakelands is proud to dedicate this year's Walk to Fight Hunger in memory of Sally H. Kauffman. The walk takes place on April 25, 2026, at the Jeff May Complex. Registration starts at 7:30AM and the walk begins at 8:00AM. You can register by scanning the QR Code or by going to fbgc.charityproud.org/EventRegistration/Index/26979



Mark Your Calendars for Our Creative Expressions Arts Exploration Event! Creation Night: Wednesday, April 29 at 5:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall Come create your contribution for the upcoming art exhibit!

Art Submissions: Deadline: Sunday, May 10. All ages and art forms are welcome. Theme: *“The kingdom of God is like...”*

Exhibition – Sunday, May 17: 10:00–11:00 A.M.: Art featured during worship in the sanctuary; 2:00–4:00 P.M.: Public exhibit and courtyard reception. We look forward to seeing and celebrating your creativity! See your April newsletter for more information!



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. – Noon Office Phone: 864.229.3595
www.wpcgnwd.org wpcgwd1@gmail.com

Clerk of Session

Claire Kuhl

Treasurer

David Hammond

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2026

Laine Horowitz

Richard Wilson

Class of 2027

Luke Christie

Bill Kimler

Class of 2028

Ginny Cartee

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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