



Wherever He May Send You

In the middle of Luke's gospel, Jesus sends his disciples out with nothing but a companion and the good news that the "kingdom of God has come near." When they return, mouths full of all they have been able to accomplish in his name, Jesus rejoices with them (Luke 10:1-24).

The coming months at Westminster will be like that. We will be dispersed: Some to mountain homes. Some to beach vacations. Some to visit parents or children. Some to worship on the water. Some to worship in the sanctuary. Some to something new and exciting that's taking shape for Sunday evenings in June.



As we go, here is my challenge to us.

1. While we are apart, let us remain united as our vision statement says, "by our belief in and commitment to Jesus Christ." One way to do this is to participate in common devotions and prayers. Be looking for summer lectionary readings and daily prayers that will be distributed to our congregation and friends later this month that we can read and pray together even while we are apart.
2. As we are sent out, let us be disciples commissioned by Christ. Let us be a sign, wherever we are, that the kingdom of God has come near.

Blessing

From the morning prayers of the Northumbrian Community

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May he bring you home rejoicing once again to our doors.

3. Do not go alone. Wherever you go, bring someone with you! They will be a strength to you, a helper, as you will be to them. Together, you will see the power of God working through your witness. And they will help you remember the stories to tell when you return. By this I mean, if you are worshipping with us on line, bring a friend to worship with you. If you are heading out to Camp Fellowship for Worship on the Water, invite a neighbor to join you. Bring a friend to something new on Sunday evenings. Bring a friend to Sunday morning worship. You get the idea!

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4. Send us messages from the road. Drop us an email with a picture. Send us a post card. We will share these with our scattered community so that we can stay in touch and encourage one another. (If you still have your flat Jesus, take him along with you. If you don't, you can find one and instructions on the resource page of our church website.)

*Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see."
Luke 10:23*

I am eager to hear of the wonders God will show you... and show the world through you!
Your friend, pastor, and fellow traveler,

Caroline &

Worship in May: Revelation—The After Life

"See, the home of God is among mortals." Revelation 21:1-6

We are in a church season between Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, and his ascension into heaven, a time when the risen Lord is very present with his disciples. Jesus has promised his disciples that when he leaves them to ascend into heaven, he will send them an Advocate, a Comforter, a Teacher, the Holy Spirit. That promise will be fulfilled on Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, which we will celebrate this year on June 5. This is the day that the gift of the Holy Spirit is realized and the good news begins to spread from Jerusalem to all the world.

In the meantime, we seem to be suspended between heaven and earth. During this season, the lectionary offers us a vision of the afterlife. That is the life for the early Christians after Jesus' ascension and the life of us all in the kingdom yet to come. We will see the trustworthy promise of God with us, now and forever more. I believe these texts and this season invite us to be attentive and watchful for the revealing of a new heaven and new earth, even here, even now.



May 1: Turning Point

Communion & PW Honorary Life Memberships

† Revelation 5:1-14

† Acts 9:1-20

May 8: On the Far Side of This

Mother's Day & PCSC Special Offering

† Revelation 7:9-17

† Acts 9: 2:5-11

May 15: A New Heaven and a New Earth

† Revelation 21:1-6

† Acts 11:1-18

May 22: A Place of Prayer

Mission Sunday

† Revelation 21:10; 21:22-22:5

† Acts 11:1-18

May 29: Praises in Prison

WOW Kick-Off & Church Picnic

† Acts 16:16-34

Westminster Happenings

**Sunday
May 1**

Sunday School

Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room.

Continue exploring *The Mighty Acts of God*, led by Doug Kauffmann.

Turning Point

Communion

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Encounter the Lamb who is worthy.

**Wednesday
May 4**

Note: Church Office Closed

**Sunday
May 8**

Sunday School

Gather in the choir room at 9:00 A.M.

Learn more about God's election of the patriarchs.

On the Far Side of This

Mother's Day & Special Offering for PCSC (see page 4)

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Join the multitudes praising and glorifying the Lamb on His throne.

**Monday
May 9**

Presbyterian Women: Circle Meeting

Participate in the Sanctuary at 10:00 A.M.

Final meeting for 2021-2022 year, followed by lunch at The Alcoves.

**Sunday
May 15**

Sunday School

Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the choir room.

Explore *The Mighty Acts of God* through His covenants.

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.

Consider how well we measure up before the throne.

Sunday Sustenance *plus* Congregational Input on W&M Ideas

Lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 A.M.

Enjoy Chef Rob's latest gastronomic delight *and*

Weigh in on ideas from the Suggestion Box—what would enhance Westminster worship for *you?* (see page 5)

Session Meeting

Meet in the parlor at 1:30 P.M.

Conduct the business of the church with prayers and thanksgiving.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday May 22	Sunday School Gather in the choir room at 9:00 A.M. Our God is a mighty God—come discuss His actions in our world.
	A Place of Prayer—a Service of Hymns & Homilies Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Join in welcoming representatives from four ministry partners (see page 5)
	Mustard Seedlings Family Mission Activity Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 P.M. (see page 5)
Sunday May 29	Praises in Prison Annual Worship on the Water Kick-Off & Church Picnic (page 6) Gather at Camp Fellowship for 10:00 A.M. worship. Note: no Sunday School; worship at Camp Fellowship <i>only</i> .

Presbyterian Communities Nurtures Residents

Mother's Day Special Offering May 8th



Since 1954, caring Presbyterians throughout South Carolina have been collecting a special Mother's Day offering to support those at Presbyterian Communities who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources. The Mother's Day Offering is essential to providing the necessary funds, helping ensure that no one in this situation has to hear that PCSC no longer has the means to care for them. Rather, the witness of the Mother's Day Offering and benevolences from church budgets assures them that they are cared for and not forgotten. For more information, go to: youtube.com/watch?v=RzosQNx5qwY&t=20s.



Residents of Presbyterian Communities have access to a vast array of opportunities to engage the mind, strengthen the spirit, and promote physical wellness. For example, Jeannie C. Causey, a resident at the Laurel Crest community, enriches her life by pursuing photography as a hobby. This beautiful picture of river rapids in Jones Gap State Park, NC, is an example of her talent.

Westminster is collecting this special offering on Mother's Day Sunday, May 8th. Make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church, and be sure to note on your contribution that it is for the annual Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina special offering.

What Do YOU think?

Your Worship & Music Committee has received a variety of interesting and invigorating ideas for enriching worship-related activities.

Now we'd like for you to weigh in on which ones float *your* boat...or don't.



During the May 15th Sunday Sustenance lunch, you'll find the list of ideas posted on the walls of the Fellowship Hall. You'll receive a set of stick-on dots that represent your vote.

Before or after you eat, check out the charts and place one or more dots beside the items that you'd like for the W&M Committee to pursue. We'll also have a place for you to leave comments and add your new ideas to the conversation.

We are listening, and we look forward to hearing your voice!

Hymns & Homilies: Celebrating Missions in Our Community

On Sunday, May 22, our worship will include opportunities to hear from four organizations that partner with us in serving those in need in our community:

- Meg's House
- Hospice House of the Piedmont
- Greater Greenwood United Ministry
- Community Initiatives



Come prepared to sing God's praise, listen to His Word, and learn how He is actively making positive change in lives here in Greenwood County.



The Mustard Seedlings

A Mission Group for
Children and
their Families

Starting May 22, join us the fourth Sunday of every month from 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall as our new Missions group for children and their families takes root and grows.

We'll revitalize a meditation garden, build bird and butterfly houses, paint pictures, listen to stories, learn songs, make crafts, eat snacks, have special visitors, and make special visits.

Join us in "doing small things with great love!" Contact Di Litwer for more information and to let her know if you are planning to participate (dlitwer@earthlink.com).

Birthday Blessings!

Best wishes and sincere prayers for these members and friends with **birthdays** in May:

- ❖ 3rd – Flora Hobson
- ❖ 6th – Jacob Dennis
- ❖ 9th – Elizabeth Watkins
- ❖ 21st – Len Bornemann
- ❖ 28th – Jennifer Sholar
- ❖ 29th – David Bell
- ❖ 29th – Kathy Gillespie
- ❖ 31st – Nathan Gillespie

And sincere **anniversary** wishes to:

- ❖ Jennifer & Ody Sholar
- ❖ Kayla & Nathan Gillespie
- ❖ Kathy & Arthur Gillespie



Worship on the Water WOWs Lake Greenwood Residents and Visitors!

Beginning on May 29th, Westminster is once again coordinating a ten-week spirit-filled worship series on the shores of Lake Greenwood. Services begin at 10:00 A.M. at the Camp Fellowship Waterfront Pavilion. Parking is available for cars and boats.

Each worship service includes lots of music, featuring area musicians ranging from guitarists and harmonica players to keyboardists and vocalists. A different pastor provides the message each week, representing many denominations and churches throughout Greenwood.

To start the summer with a bang, all Westminster members and friends are invited to the inaugural WOW service on Sunday, May 29th—Memorial Day weekend. Following worship, you are encouraged to stay for a festive picnic, catered by Camp Fellowship. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. Call the church office to let us know how many meals to prepare. Note that neither Sunday school nor worship will be conducted at the Cokesbury Road campus that day.



“Come on a boat, come in your car, come as you are!”
And remember to bring a friend!

Fostering Hope

Imagine the pain of being a child in the foster system. Add to that the embarrassment of having only a garbage bag in which to carry all your possessions as you shuttle from home to home, or nothing but a grocery sack to use for your school books and supplies.



How significant is this problem? In South Carolina, there are about 4,000 kids in foster care. The average South Carolina foster care child spends about 18 months in the system, but many spend more than 5 years in foster care. The vast majority have been placed there for neglect, physical or sexual abuse, or parental substance abuse.

In South Carolina, over 60% of kids move foster homes at least once, some moving as often as four or more times, sometimes being forced to attend different schools in the same year.

Di Litwer and Nancy Hart Wicker are striving to make a difference in these children’s lives, and you can help! They are collecting suitcases and backpacks for foster children, so that they can have a better way to transport their belongings. This simple gift has a powerful positive impact on a foster child’s dignity and self-esteem. Please consider donating new or gently used suitcases and backpacks of any size or color. Contact Di Litwer for more information (dlitwer@earthlink.com). And please pray for these children!

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.



March 2022

	March Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$9,578	\$15,576	\$42,031	\$47,222
Total Expenses	\$18,142	\$18,145	\$46,802	\$54,435
Net Gain/Loss	-\$8,565		-\$4,771	

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Len Bornemann, treasurer, or any member of the Administration, Personnel, & Finance Committee.

Thank You for Your Faithful Stewardship

Westminster is blessed to have many faithful, cheerful givers! Even through the pandemic period, your generous offerings have sustained the church and allowed us to share the Good News of Christ.

Your *continued* support is essential to sustain WPC, especially as we enter the summer months when many members are enjoying vacation travels and weekend trips.



Bills arrive relentlessly every month, so even when you are on the road, please remember to fulfill your pledge and make other offerings as you are able to do so.

You can send your tithes and offerings anytime from anywhere using the Tithely app on our website (wpcgnwd.org). Go to the Giving page and click the Give Now button. Or mail your check to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2330 Cokesbury Road
Greenwood, SC 29649

A Special Way to Recognize Those You Love



Looking for a unique tribute for Mother's Day or Father's Day? Or a meaningful gift for the friend who has everything?

Consider making a donation to Westminster in honor of or in memory of that special person in your life.

Gift recognition will be made in the bulletin, and your recipient will receive a note about the gift from the church. Here are some immediate needs that you might choose to fill as a way to celebrate someone you love:

- New sound system for WOW: \$1,000
- New portable microphones for the sanctuary: \$2,000

"Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy."

Psalm 107:22

What is Charity Tracker?

Submitted by Arthur Gillespie



Charity tracker is a community-wide effort to share possibilities for helping others in ways we might not expect. It is a software database of local churches, community helpers, such as Greater Greenwood United Ministries, United Way of Greenwood, and many other groups.

The use of this database is multifaceted, with the ability to spread requests around to a bigger group, and prevent the duplication of effort. Some of the requests have been for housing, home repairs, a window ac unit, baby clothes, money for an operation, and an Italian speaker. Generally, these requests come into the database from participating members and are for things their organization cannot handle.

Our church has decided to join this group. When a request comes in, it will be relayed to you in a forwarded email from "Arthur Gillespie for Charity Tracker." It will contain the contact info and the need itself. We also have the ability to post needs from our congregation there.

STAND for Special Families

Retired special education teacher Di Litwer has formed a new education and advocacy group for parents of children with disability and special needs. The group, known as STAND (Strength Through Advocacy and Determination), will hold its meetings on our campus.



The mission of STAND is to educate parents and guardians of children with disabilities and special needs about: the special education process;

how to advocate for themselves and their children in educational settings; and their children's medical conditions, and social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development.

Please share this information with everyone whose family might benefit from participation. Contact Di for details at dlitwer@earthlink.net.

Lift Up Your Voice!

Submitted by Bill and Nancy Hogan

The Pumpkintown Shape Note Singing (formerly the Furman University Singing) will be held on May 7, from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. at the Oolenoy Community House in Pickens. This will be the group's first year singing in this location, a two-room schoolhouse built in the late 19th century, now a site for traditional music performances.

The group will sing from the *Sacred Harp* (1991) and the *Christian Harmony* (2010) song books.

The Hogans assure us that **no experience is required**, and they will have books you can borrow. Contact the church office for more information.



CQ, CQ—Calling All Hams!

The Greenwood Amateur Radio Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M., upstairs in the Middler's room. Anyone interested in, or curious about, ham radio is welcome to attend.

Amateur Radio (aka ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings together people, electronics, and communication. Amateur Radio operators come from all walks of life—doctors, students, kids, politicians, truck drivers, movie stars, missionaries, and even your average neighbor next door. They are of all ages, genders, income levels and nationalities.



Whether through Morse Code on an old brass telegraph key, voice communication on a hand-held radio, or computerized messages transmitted via satellite, all hams use radio to talk to people across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. Because ham radio operators are off the grid, they are encouraged by the FCC as a means for emergency communications in the event of natural or man-made disasters. (www.arrl.org)

For more information contact Di Litwer at dlitwer@earthlink.net.

Coming Attractions: Joy in June

What could be better than a lazy Sunday evening in the summertime? Why, a fun gathering of the faithful, that's what!

The Worship & Music, Nurture & Christian Education, Mission & Outreach, and Congregational Care Committees are collaborating to design a series that will engage young and old alike. The vision is to create a relaxed, interactive event incorporating worship and music, fun and friendship. And *possibly* ice cream.



This is *not* a replacement for any existing Westminster activity, but is truly about “doing a new thing” that will nourish us and attract the unchurched who don't even realize what God is offering them.

If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, contact Elizabeth Watkins (ehale.watkins@gmail.com) or Claire Kuhl (vrconsulting@greenwood.net), cochairs of the Worship & Music Committee.

Calling

A poem by Joyce Alexander

Sundrenched skin,
Wind tousled hair,
I walked the beach,
Listening to the call of the sea.
A clear call
Appealing only to the chosen.





Enjoy the Blessing of Joy

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie

About a year and a half ago, I started putting together a cookbook for my adult children. (No, it is still not finished!) The book is divided into 12 months, with a “blessing” specific to that month, scriptures, family stories, photos, and family recipes. As I was trying to come up with something to write for the May edition of the *Westminster Times*, I decided to borrow some of the ideas that I included in the May section of the family book.

May—Enjoy the Blessing of Joy

“Go and **enjoy** choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the **joy** of the LORD is your strength.” *Nehemiah 8:10*

“You will go out in **joy** and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” *Isaiah 55:12*

“This is the day which the Lord has made; let us **rejoice** and be glad in it.” *Psalms 118:24*

“I have told you this so that my **joy** may be in you and that your **joy** may be complete.” *John 15:11*

“You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with **joy** in your presence.” *Acts 2:28*

“Be **joyful** in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” *Romans 12:12*

The *Blessing of Joy* seems to be a natural choice for May, because of Confirmations and graduations. In our family, we also celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in May. And let's not forget—Mother's Day is in May. Our family has had many joyful celebrations in May!

As the month draws to an end and we approach Memorial Day, we should be mindful that we might not have the freedom or opportunities for joyful celebrations without the sacrifices of those who died while serving our country. So as we embrace the joy and celebrate graduations, the end of the school year, and the beginning of summer, we also feel humble and grateful to those who ensured our freedom.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Part of a series on mental health issues

For 2022's Mental Health Awareness Month, NAMI will amplify the message of “Together for Mental Health.” We will use this time to bring our voices together to advocate for mental health and access to care through NAMI's blog, personal stories, videos, digital toolkits, social media engagements and national events.

Together, we can realize our shared vision of a nation where anyone affected by mental illness can get the appropriate support and quality of care to live healthy, fulfilling lives. Help us spread the word through awareness, support and advocacy activities. For info, visit <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month>



Greenwood Place Update

Submitted by Fred Murphy, Executive Director



The most recent Clubhouse stats show that the average daily attendance for March was 11. For the month of February, Members spent 836 hours at the Clubhouse. We served 181 meals and for the month picked up 143 members. We currently have 7 Members who are working part-time.

No members were hospitalized during the month for mental health issues. It is important to track hospitalizations of members as it has been proven that participation in a Clubhouse significantly reduces the rate of hospitalizations. In South Carolina, the daily cost of hospitalization is \$3,800. The average stay in the hospital is 10 days for a total cost of \$38,000 per visit.

As noted last month, we continue to seek funding for the continued operations of Greenwood Place. We have a number of grant requests pending for 2022. Greenwood Place will be seeking funding from the State of South Carolina and will request additional funding from Self Regional Hospital for 2022. Please pray for our success!

Here are some photos of our recent trip to Gateway Clubhouse in Greenville. We had a great time visiting our sister Clubhouse and exposing our members to all the activities that are supported by the Clubhouse and its Members.



Our April Social is Pizza and movie.

We would like to ask Westminster to keep a couple of our members in your prayers as they are going through some medical issues at this time. Jeff and Candy have asked that they be included on your prayer list.

May is Mental Health Awareness month. As part of our daily newsletter, "Daily Word," we are including a daily mental health and wellness tips to help everyone deal with their mental and physical well-being.



Greenwood Place would like to thank Westminster Presbyterian for their support of our program and members. Without your support, we would not be able to fulfill our mission to those in our community who truly need help and support as they face their mental health issues.

Let Us Pray...



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

- John Bacot
- Len Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Kathy Cates,
Caroline's sister
- Kelli Lott & daughters
Savanah and Gabby
- Julie Dowd, Tina
Corley's sister
- Ann Lorraine Sander
- Akabana Siyunyi
- Faye Tillotson
- Ed Watkins
- Gail & Glen Yonce,
and Georgianna

*"Hear my cry for help, my King
and my God, for to you I pray.
Psalm 5:2*

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
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Gwd. Food Bank
- Beyond Abuse
- Meg's House
- Greater Greenwood
United Ministries
- Camp Fellowship



For Those in Our Hearts

We pray for these members of our wider community:

- Charles Alexander
- Leona Anderson
- Chris Brown
- Laura Clark
- Nancy Cooper
- Charlotte Gero
- Jim Greene
- Lois Grice
- Beverly Grier
- Joan Herin
- Michael Knight
- Corrie Manis
- Margaret Rada & son
- Kay Rentz
- Terrance Reece
- Dave Watson
- Geri
- Abigail
- Jeff
- Candy



For the World

We pray for all our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love as we love ourselves:

- For those living in fear and danger, especially Ukrainians and Russians
- For our enemies, that their hearts may be opened to your love and truth
- For all who experience exclusion
- For unity among Christians in every country and corner of the world
- For congregations dealing with internal strife
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For all those suffering from war and natural disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic
- For those in our community who struggle to meet basic needs
- For peace and wisdom in our community, country, & among world and local leaders
- For those serving in the United States Armed Services, at home and around the world

And God Saw That It Was Good...



Pop-up posies for Connie Mawyet at the Humane Society of Greenwood



Mary Corley welcomes visitors Nancy Dozier and Mary Anne Wilson



Westminster and Camp Fellowship shared a display at the Life on the Lake Summit

Thank You to the Clean-Up Day Crew!



Holy Saturday—a Time of Hope and Preparation



Easter Morning in All Its Glory!



Our Musicians at the Hospice Sunrise Service



Ready for Flowering to Begin



More musicians making magic in the court yard

Flowering and Fellowship



More Flowering, Fellowship, and Festivities



Sharing the Joy of Easter Morning



The Cross Transformed



Visions of Iona: Travelogue from Denise Waldrep



First sight of the island of Iona with its Abbey and its village, bathed in spectacular light.

Iona has been a place for many where their faith begins to be made whole again, building new strength and rising up from remnants of broken dreams.



Iona lambs huddling for warmth in the North Atlantic winds



Pencil study of the great window of the Iona Abbey and its light