

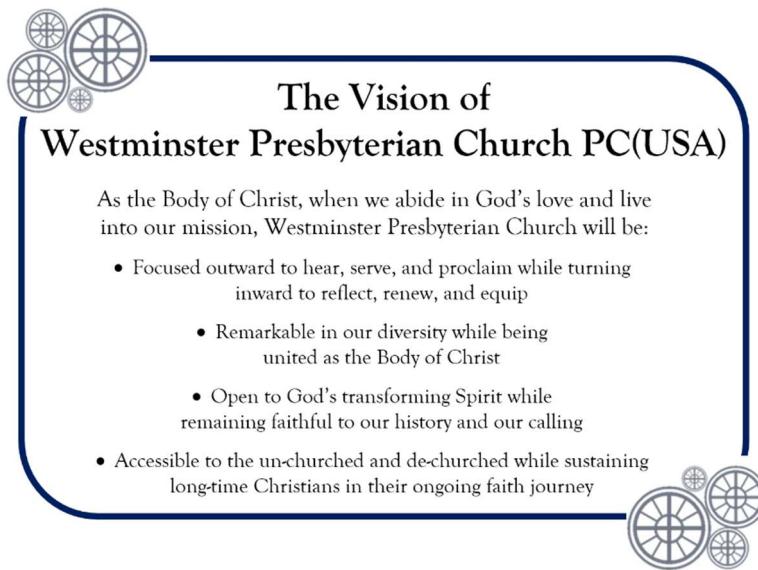


## Inside and Out

Joseph Small, author of the *PC(USA) Being Reformed, Faith Seeking Understanding* study guide on The Six Great Ends of the Church, posits that the great ends work not in isolation, but as a unit that is carefully worded and artfully arranged.

Small suggests that the first and the last great end work together as book ends, starting with a gospel proclaimed and ending with a gospel shown. The second and fourth are also a pair: care within and the work without. And the third and fourth are the center piece: worshipping God and living the truth that Christ came to show us.

As we contemplate the Six Great Ends, we notice that there is an inward focus as the church is rooted and strengthened, but there is also an outward focus as the church reaches out and grows. In this way, the Six Great Ends are much like our own Westminster Presbyterian Vision Statement, which binds together inward and outward focus into four statements of what we hope to be as we live into our mission.



**The Vision of  
Westminster Presbyterian Church PC(USA)**

As the Body of Christ, when we abide in God's love and live into our mission, Westminster Presbyterian Church will be:

- Focused outward to hear, serve, and proclaim while turning inward to reflect, renew, and equip
  - Remarkable in our diversity while being united as the Body of Christ
  - Open to God's transforming Spirit while remaining faithful to our history and our calling
- Accessible to the un-churched and de-churched while sustaining long-time Christians in their ongoing faith journey

It is my hope that as you turn through the pages of this newsletter, reviewing pictures and reports of the month gone by and look at the many joys the month ahead holds for us, you will see Westminster engaged in the Six Great Ends of the Church and embodying our vision. More than that, I pray that you will be strengthened inside and out, as you are being rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, and that together we might reach out into the world, promoting social righteousness and exhibiting the kingdom of heaven that is among us.

Your pastor and friend,



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## Eastertide Sermon Series: The Six Great Ends of the Church

During April, we began an in-depth look at the Six Great Ends of the Church as they are presented in the *PC(USA) Book of Order*. Our study continues through May, concluding with a unique celebration of how Westminster completes the thought, “The Kingdom of God is like...” (see page 12). And we close out the month experiencing the **fire** and **wind** of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and **water**, worshipping on Lake Greenwood at Camp Fellowship.

### May 3: The Preservation of the Truth

*Guest Preacher: Brian Purcell*

- † Psalm 25:4-5
- † Deuteronomy 6:4-8
- † John 8:31-38
- † John 14:15-17



### May 10: The Promotion of Social Righteousness

*Communion/Food Bank Collection*

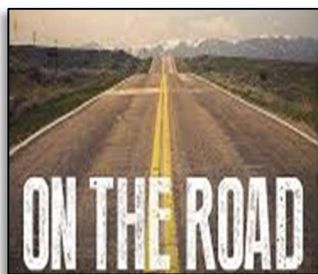
- † Psalm 63:1-8
- † Matthew 25:31-46
- † Ephesians 4:25-32

### May 17: The Exhibition of the Kingdom of God to the World

- † Psalm 19:1-4
- † Matthew 13:31-33
- † Ephesians 5:1-2

### May 24: Worship on the Water Kickoff

*Pentecost/Worship/Church Picnic*



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## Summer Sermon Series Preview: On the Road

### May 31: Bumps in the Road—God Meant It for Good

*Trinity Sunday*

- † Genesis 45:4-16
- † Genesis 50:15-21
- † Romans 8:28, 37-39

I'm not sure which came first, God on the move... or God's *people* on the move, but I do think that much of our scripture happens on the way from here to there. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, “it's not the destination, it's the journey.”

Some of the most beautiful Psalms were written by God's people on their way to the temple to celebrate the great festivals of their faith. God called Abraham to leave home and go on an adventure with God. Joseph experienced ups and downs on his road and learned that God was with him all along, working out God's plan. The Israelites learned to trust God's provision on the road from Egypt to the Promise Land—talk about a long road trip! Are we there yet, Moses?!

Jesus was on the road when he met the Samaritan woman, and Zaccheaus. And Jesus sent his followers out on the road to spread the gospel. All along the way, God's people were strengthened by God's promise, first given to Joshua, “be strong and courageous, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

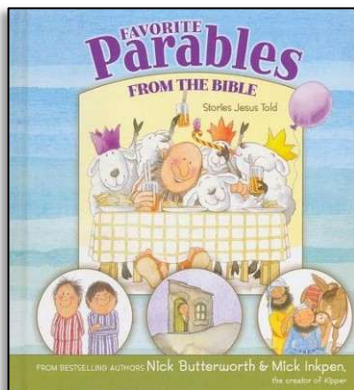
This summer, we will embark on our own road trips. Let us take the lessons of these biblical road trips with us, and may we always remember that God is with us wherever we go!

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## Children's Sunday School: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie

During March and April, the Children & Youth Sunday School class read and discussed parables from the Gospel of Matthew. They also opened child-appropriate "resurrection eggs," discussed the symbol that was hidden inside the egg, and then hung the symbol on a "Lenten tree." As Easter drew near, they read about the days leading to the cross, including the Last Supper. After Easter, the students opened the remaining eggs that celebrate the risen Christ.



In May, the class will continue studying stories that Jesus told, including parables from Mark and Luke. They will read the actual scripture from the Bible, as well as illustrated versions from the book, *Favorite Parables from the Bible: Stories Jesus Told*. During May, they will also learn about the Ascension and Pentecost.

If you would like to share Jesus' parables with the children in your life, the book we have been reading in class can be purchased from various book sellers, including Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Favorite-Parables-Bible-Stories-Jesus/dp/0310724325>). The book includes the actual scriptures,

as well illustrated versions of 8 parables.

The children are looking forward to Vacation Bible Camp in June. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to participate, look for dates and details on page 13 of this newsletter, or call the church office.

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## Online Study Takes Summer Break

Submitted by Ginny Cartee

The Thursday evening online study group has completed the spring session. The leaders want to thank participants and supporters that made this a meaningful season. Our hope is that everyone involved will join in the many summer community and church activities available to build meaningful connections. Watch for information about Fall opportunities to connect online.



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## Women of Westminster Wrap Up PW Circle Season

Submitted by Beth Hammond



The final meeting of Presbyterian Women for this season will be on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 A.M. This will be our spring luncheon at the home of Nancy Dozier (108 Pinecrest Drive, Greenwood). Please let Nancy know if you can attend by Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Beth Hammond will lead the lesson, "When You are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus." This is lesson 9 in the study book, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Come and join us!

**PW Purpose:** *Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

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# Westminster Happenings

**Saturday** | **Mindful Meditation**  
**May 2** | Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

**Sunday School**  
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom  
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

**Sunday** | **Welcome to Westminster Mini-Series** (*see page 8*)  
**May 3** | Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 A.M.  
Explore how PC(USA) defines *church*, *worship*, and the *sacraments*.

**The Preservation of the Truth**  
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.  
Welcome today's guest preacher, our own Brian Purcell.

**Monday** | **Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**  
**May 4** | Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.  
**BEMA Bible Discussion Group**  
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday** | **Presbyterian Women's Circle** (*see page 3*)  
**May 5** | Celebrate the arrival of summer with luncheon at Nancy Dozier's home.  
Enjoy fellowship and discuss the final lesson in the PW study book.

**Wednesday** | **Books & Brown Bags Study Group**  
**May 6** | Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.  
Engage with our book, *Evidence Not Seen*, by Darlene Deibler Rose.

**Saturday** | **Mindful Meditation**  
**May 9** | Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

***Mother's Day***

**Sunday** | **Sunday School**  
**May 10** | Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom  
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

**Welcome to Westminster Mini-Series**  
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 A.M.  
Discuss what Christian life looks like for Presbyterians.

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Sunday**  
**May 10,**  
*continued* | **The Promotion of Social Righteousness**  
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.  
Contribute to the PCSC special offering (*see page 8*).

**Monday**  
**May 11** | **Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**  
Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.  
**BEMA Bible Discussion Group**  
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday**  
**May 12** | **Stated Session Meeting**  
Gather in the Joe Gettys Room at 5:30 P.M.  
Serve the Lord by attending to the business of the church.

**Wednesday**  
**May 13** | **Books & Brown Bags Study Group**  
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.  
Dive deeper into our book, *Evidence Not Seen*, by Darlene Deibler Rose.

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Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

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**Saturday**  
**May 16** | **Mindful Meditation**  
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

**Ascension Sunday** (*see page 9*)

**Sunday School**

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom.  
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

**Welcome to Westminster Mini-Series**

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 A.M.  
Wrap up your initial conversation about PC(USA) and Westminster.

**Sunday**  
**May 17**

**The Exhibition of the Kingdom of God to the World Art Exhibit**

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. (*see pages 10 & 24*)  
Attune all of your senses to experience what the Kingdom of God is like.

*Note: Sunday Sustenance is replaced by the May 24 WOW church picnic.*

**Public Reception: The Exhibition of the Kingdom of God to the World**

Appreciate Westminster's artists' varied visions from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
Invite friends and family to explore this unique avenue for enjoying God.

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

- Monday  
May 18** | **Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**  
Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.
- Monday  
May 18** | **BEMA Bible Discussion Group**  
Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday  
May 20** | **Books & Brown Bags Study Group**  
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.  
Continued discussing *Evidence Not Seen*, by Darlene Deibler Rose.
- Thursday  
May 21** | **Bobby Jo Valentine Concert** (*see pages 11 & 23*)  
Come to Westminster at 7:00 P.M. and include all your friends.  
Listen to an award-winning folk/pop artist share his God-given gifts.
- Saturday  
May 23** | **Mindful Meditation**  
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.
- Sunday  
May 24** | **Pentecost** (*see page 12*)  
**Worship on the Water Kickoff and Church Picnic** (*see page 11*)  
Find your way to Camp Fellowship by boat or by car at 10:00 A.M.  
Let the mighty wind of the Holy Spirit energize you for the work ahead.  
**Note: Neither Sunday school nor worship held on Cokesbury campus.**
- Monday  
May 25** | **Memorial Day** (*see page 9*)  
*Note: The Church Office is closed for the holiday.*
- Wednesday  
May 27** | **Books & Brown Bags Study Group**  
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.  
Share your reactions to *Evidence Not Seen*, by Darlene Deibler Rose.
- Sunday  
May 31** | **Trinity Sunday** (*see page 12*)  
**Bumps on the Road: God Meant It for Good**  
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.  
Venture out on the road and find out what God has in store for you.
- Sunday  
May 31** | **Western Cluster PDA Build-a-Bucket Assembly Project** (*see page 7*)  
Join the Western Cluster churches at 3:00 P.M. in our Fellowship Hall.  
Provide hands-on support for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Sunday  
May 31** | **Vacation Bible Camp Kickoff** (*see page 13*)  
Assemble in the Kids' Sunday School room Sunday Morning at 9:00 A.M.  
Continued your road trip Monday through Thursday, 5:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

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## May is Build-a-Bucket Month for PDA Aid to Flood Survivors

Throughout the month of May, members of the PC(USA) churches in the Western Cluster of Trinity Presbytery—including us!—will gather supplies to fill Emergency Relief Buckets that will be sent by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to people cleaning up after floods.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) works with other relief agencies to move toward people in need following natural or human-made disasters. Stockpiling Emergency Relief Buckets to give to flood victims is just one of the many highly practical projects in PDA's repertoire. The buckets themselves have numerous uses in this situation, and PDA works with local churches around the country to fill those buckets with essentials that are hard to find in an emergency.

Each church in the Western Cluster is responsible for a specific set of items. WPC folks are gathering three items for the bucket:

- Easy Wipe Clean Up Towels
- 24-count heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
- 6- to 14-ounce bottles of non-aerosol insect repellent

Pick up your donation information card at church this Sunday, and bring your donation to church any Sunday in May. Final deadline is Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, all of the participating churches will gather here at Westminster for a time of fellowship, learning, and bucket assembly. Plan to attend to learn more about PDA's work around the world, to meet more Presbyterian friends, and to make a difference for those experiencing the chaos of natural and of human-made disasters.

The Western Cluster is one of the most active in Trinity Presbytery: Abbeville, Calhoun Falls, First Presbyterian-Greenwood, Hodges, Lowndes, New Faith, McCormick, Ninety Six, Upper Long Cane, Ware Shoals, and Westminster.



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## May is National Teacher Appreciation Month

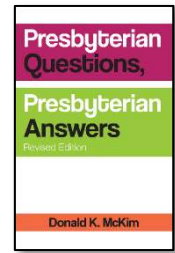
This year, May 5<sup>th</sup> is Teacher Appreciation Day 2026, according to the National Education website. In fact, the entire month of May is a great time to honor the kind, hardworking, and patient education professionals who create an everlasting impact on our lives and our children's lives. This month is set aside to celebrate teachers, support staff, administrators, and everyone serving in schools at every level. It's a great time to send a note or say "thank you" to teachers past and present for the many ways their love and work touched your life.

Westminster is blessed to have many professional educators and volunteer teachers as part of our church family. Our prayers and thanks are offered to each and every one this month and always.

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# How Do You Spell *Prezbe...Presbata..???* Help!

Welcome to Westminster Inquirer's Mini-Series  
Sunday mornings April–May  
8:45 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.  
Fellowship Hall



At Westminster, we love people who ask good questions (like “How do you spell *Presbyterian?*”), and we love coming together to find answers. To help you do just that, we kicked off a special Welcome to Westminster mini-series in April, and it continues on Sunday mornings throughout May (excluding Memorial Day weekend). The purpose of this series is to get to know you better, and for you to get to know us better.

Each session starts with fellowship time from 8:45 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. As a focal point for our discussions about being Presbyterian, we’re using *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*, by David McKim. We’ll explore Presbyterian theology and practice, as well as learn about Westminster history and congregational life. Pastor Caroline is the facilitator, and she will be assisted by guest presenters, including, among others, the elders currently serving on the Session. “What’s an elder? What’s a Session?” Come to class and find out!

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## Presbyterian Communities Nurtures Residents

*Mother’s Day Special Offering May 10th*



Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina operates six retirement communities that hundreds of seniors call home.

Each location provides a full range of accommodations and services, from independent and active living to healthcare and memory support. Living at a Presbyterian Community, residents find everything they need to live life to its fullest. They are empowered to “*grow old,*” and not just “*get old.*”

Since 1954, caring Presbyterians throughout South Carolina have collected 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 to 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. Use this QR code to see an informational video about PCSC and the Mother’s Day tradition.



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, Bruce Krucke, a resident at The Village at Summerville community, enriches her life by pursuing painting as a hobby. This beautiful watercolor of the Two Meeting Street Inn overlooking The Battery in Charleston is an example of her talent.

**Westminster is collecting this special offering on Mother’s Day Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

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## Ascension Sunday: May 17<sup>th</sup>

*From pcusa.org*

Forty days after the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday), we remember and celebrate the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. (See Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11; see also Mark 16:19-20.)



The Ascension of Jesus Christ marked the end of Christ's earthly existence and the beginning of a new period of time, one in which Christ's relationship with the Church is not restricted by the boundaries of time and space. Christ is now available to *all* people *all* of the time through the work of the Holy Spirit.

According to John Calvin, we can appropriate three "benefits" of Christ's Ascension for our faith:

- Through Ascension-faith we experience Christ "transfusing us with his power."
- Ascension-faith experiences Christ as a "constant advocate and intercessor" who "prepares a way and access for us to the Father's throne."
- Most important, Ascension-faith discovers that Christ's Ascension "has opened the way into the Heavenly Kingdom, which had been closed through Adam."

The Ascension is nothing short of the inauguration of the Kingdom of God, a new age in which faithful Christians find that they have access, through Christ, to God's ultimate reality and purposes.

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## Memorial Day: Never Forget

*Excerpted from pcusa.org*

On Memorial Day, we are reminded of the tragedy of war. We remember and give thanks for those who have given their lives in service to our nation.

Sadly, we have often had to advance the cause of freedom and justice through taking up arms to defend and protect the oppressed.

The deaths that come from war are needless and tragic. Those who give their lives in war may be remembered and honored for their selfless sacrifice, but the wars which brought their deaths are not glorious adventures.

We remember and mourn those killed in war on Memorial Day as we grieve the pain of loss and deprivation.

War in our world is a contradiction—we celebrate and rejoice in the redemption God has made available to all, the peace given through the love and grace of our Lord, and the strength we each can embody as we are filled by the precious Spirit. And yet, war remains pervasive and persistent in this broken world.

As we mourn, let us remember: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)



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## “The Exhibition of the Kingdom of God to the World” Art Exhibit

*The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.  
Psalm 19:1-4*

*He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed  
that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds,  
but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree,  
so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”*

*He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast  
that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”  
Matthew 13:31-33*

Where have you seen the kingdom of God exhibited by the church? Where have you seen the kingdom of God exhibited in the world? Can you show us with your art? With a photograph, a dance, a song, a poem, a painting, a sculpture?

We are now soliciting art of all types from Westminster members and friends for our “Exhibition of the Kingdom of God to the World” Art Exhibit.



*Drawing by Sarah Parks*

### **Exhibit: Sunday, May 17**

- 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
Art will be exhibited in the sanctuary and incorporated as part of worship
- 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
Public Exhibit and Courtyard Reception

### **Art Submissions:**

- Any art form is welcome! (painting, sketching, sculpture, photography, poetry, dance, song...)
- All ages are welcome to submit
- Your art should complete the sentence, “The kingdom of God is like...”
- Deadline for submitting is Sunday, May 10. Submissions are to be display-ready and may be delivered to the church Monday – Thursday, 9:00 to noon or on Sunday mornings.
- With your submission, please include the following:
  - Artist’s full name
  - Description of your art medium (watercolor, photograph...)
  - Brief artist’s statement telling how your piece illustrates the theme

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## Bobby Joe Valentine Concert Celebrates Inclusion

**Thursday, May 21**

**7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary**

**Free Admission—Open to the Public**

Even a casual reading of the Bible surfaces numerous exhortations for the people of God to sing—sing God’s praises, sing to the Lord a new song, sing for joy! So it is quite fitting that, on May 21<sup>st</sup>, Westminster is inviting our congregation and community on a vocal adventure, guided by award-winning singer/songwriter, Bobby Joe Valentine.



Valentine describes himself as “a progressive, faith-based singer/songwriter who travels full-time to offer concerts at love-focused, openhearted churches. As a gay artist who grew up in a conservative Baptist world, I carry deep gratitude for churches that openly affirm and uplift LGBTQ+ individuals. My songs lean into themes of courage, spiritual depth, and finding the sacred in everyday life. My concerts are thoughtful, poetic, and designed to meet people wherever they’re at in their journey.”

Mark your calendar to reserve the evening of May 21<sup>st</sup> and invite friends and family to participate in this inspirational outreach event. A poster is provided on page 23 to share and post as you see fit.

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## Worship on the Water *WOWs* Lake Greenwood Residents and Visitors!

Beginning on May 24<sup>th</sup>, Westminster is once again coordinating a fifteen-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. Or you can even stay afloat in your boat just off shore!

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 24<sup>th</sup>—Memorial Day weekend. The Rev. Caroline V. Dennis will be preaching. Following worship, you are encouraged to stay for a festive “dinner on the grounds.” **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!***

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## Pentecost: Come, Holy Spirit

From [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32)



### ***Pentecost is new creation***

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty *ruach* (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power—the *unseen* power of God—moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it *ruach YHWH*, “the wind, or breath, of God” (cf. John 3:8).

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of Holy Spirit that draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Eph1:10).

Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible.

A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its mission as God's new people. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ: the church.

## Trinity: Unfathomable Mystery

From [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)

On Trinity Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, we proclaim the mystery of our faith in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One-in-Three and Three-in-One.



Unlike other festivals in the church's liturgical calendar, Trinity Sunday centers on a *doctrine* of the church, rather than an *event*. It celebrates the unfathomable mystery of God's being as Holy Trinity. It is a day of adoration and praise of the one, eternal, incomprehensible God.

Trinity Sunday, in a sense, synthesizes all we have celebrated over the past months that have centered on God's mighty acts: Christmas-Epiphany celebrating God's taking flesh and dwelling among us in Jesus Christ; Easter celebrating Christ's death and resurrection for us; Pentecost celebrating God the Holy Spirit becoming our Sanctifier, Guide, and Teacher. It is a fitting transition to the part of the year when Sunday by Sunday the work of God among us is unfolded in a more general way.

The triune God is the basis of all we are and do as Christians. In the name of this triune God we are baptized. As the baptized ones we bear the name of the triune God in our being. We are of the family of the triune God. We affirm this parentage when, in reciting the creeds, we say what we believe. Our discipleship is rooted in the mighty acts of this triune God who is active in redeeming the world. The triune God is the basis of all our prayers—we pray *to* God the Father, *through* Jesus Christ, *by* the Holy Spirit. The Trinity holds central place in our faith.

In celebrating Trinity Sunday, remember that *every* Sunday is special. Every Sunday is a day of the Holy Trinity.

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## Vacation Bible Camp 2026



# ON THE ROAD: Our Great Adventure with God

## May 31 - June 4

Be strong and courageous, for the Lord your  
God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Vacation Bible Camp is back again! Ever ready for an adventure with God, VBC meets this year at a new time! Here's the plan! We'll kick off VBC on Sunday morning, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Children age 4 through Middle School, and High School helpers, join us during the Sunday School hour (9:00 A.M.) to join Joseph on his up and down adventure to Egypt, where God had a plan for him. We'll continue the adventure during worship at 10:00 A.M. Then...

... from Monday to Wednesday, it will be an *evening* adventure as we gather from 5:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. We start with a snack supper, followed by story, song, and mission. Then it's off to arts and crafts, and finishing up with games, as we meet Zachaeus, the Good Samaritan, an Ethiopian and his friend Phillip, and the Apostle Paul, who had their own adventures on the road. We're hoping to finish the week with some family fun at the pool on Thursday evening. Stay tuned for more details about that!

All we need are a few kids and some volunteers! Registrations for both will be available in your order of worship during May and on the front page of our website. C'mon—let's hit the road and experience some amazing adventures with our loving and creative God!

## Thanks for Your Faithfulness

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](http://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

## Help Wanted

Volunteers serving on Westminster's ministry teams are the driving force behind our work and worship as a Christ-centered community.



Whatever your spiritual gifts and faith-related interests may be, there is always room for you in our ministry teams. Right now, we could especially use help in the **Personnel** and **Stewardship** areas.

Westminster is blessed with an abundance of seasoned leaders who are eager to mentor newcomers. Contact Pastor Dennis or any Session member for more information about opportunities to serve.

## May Birthday Blessings!

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

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> – Roman Miller
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> – Flora Hobson
- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> – Jest Dennis & Tina Corley
- ❖ 7<sup>th</sup> – Nicole McC Carson
- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> – Denise Waldrep
- ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> – Asher Irons & Laura Margaret Fennell
- ❖ 18<sup>th</sup> – Gary Jackson
- ❖ 20<sup>th</sup> – Camilla McDivitt
- ❖ 22<sup>nd</sup> – Robyn Agnew
- ❖ 29<sup>th</sup> – David Bell & Tracey Jackson



And sincere **anniversary** wishes to:

- ❖ Kathy & Arthur Gillespie
- ❖ Elizabeth & Hampton Watkins

## 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.

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

*Psalm 107:22*

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## In the Spotlight: Mary Frances Thompson

Westminster recently welcomed Mary Frances Thompson as a new member. She has graciously answered our five standard questions and also provided a short biography. Seek out Mary Frances—you will enjoy getting to know her!

Answers are subject to change at any time, but right now:

- 1. What gives you joy?** Discovering how and why something works, or the background to events like biblical stories.
- 2. What drives you crazy?** Expectations without explanations.
- 3. What's your favorite piece of music?** Greensleeves.
- 4. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Read.
- 5. What's your favorite meal?** Good homemade vegetable soup with cabbage and okra and cornbread (that's *not* sweet).



### Biography

I grew up in West Columbia, SC. I am the only child of an only child, though my dad had five sisters. I've always loved school and learning. Among my favorite words are "how" and "why."

I graduated from Winthrop College (before it was a university and during its early years as a co-ed school). I majored in math and minored in chemistry and computer science (in the days of room-size computers and data cards). During my senior year at Winthrop, I felt a call to the ministry. I taught high school math and physics for four years before enrolling in Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC (SEBTS). My seminary degree is Master of Divinity with Religious Education with Languages.



Since seminary, I completed ten units of Clinical Pastoral Education (chaplaincy training)—one unit in a general hospital setting, and nine units in a mental health setting. I was ordained by First Baptist Church, West Columbia, in June of 1995. I worked on, but did not complete, a Doctor of Divinity degree at Columbia Theological Seminary (PCUSA). My focus was on racial justice and reconciliation.

I have served several churches in the West Columbia/Columbia area as Director/Minister of Education, Director/Minister of Children and Youth, and kindergarten director and teacher. I was a Special Worker for the SC Baptist Convention, training Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Discipleship, training preschool and children's leaders. I also served as caller and judge for state Baptist Bible drills. I am active in the Walk to Emmaus movement, as well as Epiphany of South Carolina (a three-day movement for at-risk and incarcerated juveniles). I have also served in the Kairos Prison Ministry.

*Continued on page 16*

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*Continued from page 15*

I came to Greenwood in 1996 to serve as chaplain for the Greenwood Center for Female Juvenile Offenders. The Greenwood Center closed in 2004, but I decided to remain in Greenwood. I have worked as a school-based counselor for the Department of Mental Health, program assistant for Community Initiatives, and ministry assistant for First Baptist Church- Greenwood. I served on the board of Greenwood Place and continue to serve on the Board of Greater Greenwood United Ministry (GGUM). I believe my call at this stage of my life is advocacy for the marginalized, whether the marginalization is because of race, age, lifestyle choices, income, or being differently-abled.



I love animals and currently live with two dogs and a cat. Although I do not have siblings, my college roommate and I have been friends since the second grade. You will often hear me refer to her children as my niece and nephews.



## Mission & Outreach: Focus on the Food Bank

*Submitted by Tim Rogers*

At the Food Bank of Greenwood County, our top priority is protecting our most vulnerable citizens, the children and seniors who make up approximately 3% of the Greenwood County population.

We are a volunteer-driven organization striving to reduce hunger and promote health and wellness. We feed more than 2,000 individuals each month.

Did you know “Westminster’s own” Dr. Nancy Hart Wicker serves on the Food Bank Board as Medical Director?

### What to contribute

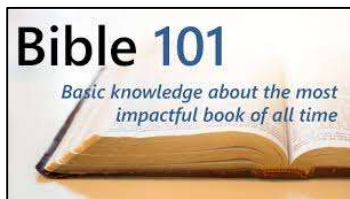
Items needed include: canned goods (low-sodium needed), beans, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, boxed cereal, and other

non-perishables. Canned meats, instant coffee, and powdered milk are valuable gifts. Ideally, make sure any canned goods have pop-top lids—not every home has a can opener. Check your WPC purple bag for a longer list of the necessities that are regularly appreciated by Greenwood’s food-insecure families.



From January through March, Westminster’s congregation donated 315 pounds of food items! Remember to fill your purple bag and bring it to worship every Communion Sunday (first Sunday of each month).

We also supported the Sally H. Kauffmann Walk Against Hunger on April 25 by serving as Water Table Sponsors and also participating as walkers (more pictures on page 22).



## Coming in August—Bible 101

*Submitted by Gloria Christie*

Coming in August! The Nurture & Christian Education Ministry Team is sponsoring a four-part lecture series entitled *Bible 101*, and you're invited! This is not a Bible study, but rather an opportunity to learn *about* the Bible and get answers to your questions regarding authors, structure, order, translations, and much more. Whether you are a seasoned Bible reader or brand new to the Bible, there will be things to learn.

The series begins August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sessions start at 4:00 P.M. General topics and instructors are:

- Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>: *Introduction to the Bible* - Brian Purcell, MPM
- Aug 30<sup>th</sup>: *Literary Genres and Devices* - Rev. Dr. Brad Christie
- Sept 13<sup>th</sup>: *Translations and the Canon* - Rev. Phillip Dennis
- Sept 20<sup>th</sup>: *What Presbyterians (USA) Believe and Tools for Study* - Rev. Caroline Dennis

These teachers value your input and want to hear from you. During the month of May, paper will be provided to write down your questions anonymously and place in a box in the Narthex. No question is a foolish question!

The other PC(USA) churches in our presbytery cluster are invited to this learning opportunity, so please spread the word and plan to bring a friend!



## Display Your Tartan with Pride

*Submitted by Gloria Christie*

The 2026 Kirkin' O' the Tartans service will be held on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, and it is time to begin the preparations! (FYI, the Kirkin' tradition honors the Scots heritage shared by all Presbyterians, and involves bagpipes, pageantry, and flags featuring those colorful plaids used by Scottish clans to identity their kin.)

**Those wishing to provide a tartan flag representing your family or to provide one for this year's Kirkin' service, you need to contact Gloria Christie no later than June 1 for instructions on ordering fabric.** There will still be other supplies to purchase (for example, flagstuffs, stands, tassels) and volunteers needed, so we welcome your support.



To pledge your support for Kirkin' please fill out the **WPC Kirkin' Support Form** at [bit.ly/WPC-kirkin](https://bit.ly/WPC-kirkin) or use the QR code at left.

For those who prefer paper, copies will be available in the Narthex. If you have questions, contact Gloria Christie: [ggchristie716@gmail.com](mailto:ggchristie716@gmail.com) or 864-379-5034.



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# Stewardship Snapshot



*Please note that because of the newsletter publication schedule vs. timing of month-end close, these reports will typically be about six weeks behind.*

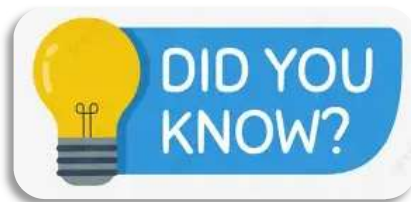
## March 2026

	March Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	\$32,400	\$17,707	\$123,204	\$111,117
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$18,719	\$24,283	\$62,592	\$73,351
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	\$13,681		\$60,612	

Unrestricted contributions exceeded budget due to March being a five-Sunday month. Also, several givers made significant contributions toward their annual pledge amounts. Program area expenses were slightly below budget overall. The net result was a surplus of contributions in excess of expenses of \$13,681 for the month. Note that the surplus contains restricted or designated amounts of \$1,898 (primarily \$1,728 for kitchen upgrades and renovations), \$1,033 One Great Hour of Sharing offering, and \$841 Camp Fellowship special offering. Donations for kitchen upgrades and renovations in the first quarter totaled \$3,728, of which \$620 has thus far been expensed, leaving \$3,108 available prior to receipt and payment for the new 3-bowl sink.

*Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer David Hammond or to the Business Affairs Ministry Team.*

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## Our Prayer Garden Springs to Life

*A series of tasty tidbits worth knowing about your church home*

One of the great hymns of the faith opens with the words, “I come to the garden alone,” to commune with Christ. Many of us find our prayers amplified while praying surrounded by nature, and for that reason, Westminster has a prayer garden. You are welcome to seek connection with God and creation in that lovely setting for as long as you like, anytime that you like. You might even find our own Pastor there, recharging and seeking refreshment sitting on the garden bench. In early spring, you can enjoy the blossoms of bulbs planted by our youth in years past.

The prayer garden is located on the north side of the church property, tucked behind the Fellowship Hall parking area. A sign indicates the path to the garden. Our resident Master Gardener, Beth Hammond, and her handy husband, David, informally coordinate the volunteers who help keep this sacred space tidy and welcoming. If you enjoy worshipping God by working outside, let Beth know. After all, you don’t have to be alone to be blessed by coming to the garden!



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## Let Us Pray...



### For Those in Our Church

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

- David Alexander
- Mary Corley
- The Dozier family
- Kathy Felder
- Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- The Blanchett Family
- Ed Watkins
- Kathleen Watkins
- Joan Wilkins
- Kathy West
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- The Dennis family
- Your Session

*"...whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

*Mark 11:24*

*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 in our community, especially:*

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank & Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- Montreat Center
- Community Initiatives
- Toddler Learning Center
- Trinity Presbytery



### For Those in Our Hearts

*We pray for members of our wider community (and our connection to them):*

- Elaine Alderman (*Kaitlin*)
- Rhea Bollinger (*Tracey*)
- The Boltons (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Brown (*Kuhls*)
- Judy Buck (*Lucia*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jack Cauley (*Mary Anne*)
- Family of Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- Tom & Laura Dozier, and Laura's father (*Nancy*)
- Frances Garren (*Wilson's*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Kuhls*)
- Family and friends of Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Bruce Muller (*Tracey*)
- Elle Willis (*Rogers*)
- Nancy, Jean, & Barbara (*Purcells*)
- Jodi (*Lucia, Laine*)
- Morgan (*Laine, Doris*)
- Family of Lorene Waldrep (*Denise*)
- Wendell (*McInneses*)



### For the World

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

- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For an end to violence, especially politically motivated attacks of all types
- For the safety of Christians in Nigeria, Pakistan, China, and other oppressive areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and elsewhere
- For wisdom and grace to inform all decisions of those in positions of power
- For those affected by natural disasters, including floods, fire, and weather dangers
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence

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## And God Saw That It Was Good



Our Sunday Sustenance/Mission Fair was a rousing success. The lunch menu featured Thai cuisine and a locally sourced salad that included kale and cucumbers from our own raised beds (with special thanks to Tracey and Gary Jackson)! In addition, we learned about three key partners in ministry: Thornwell Children's Home, Community Initiatives, and Foster the City. They each provided an informative speaker and a resource table for deeper exploration.



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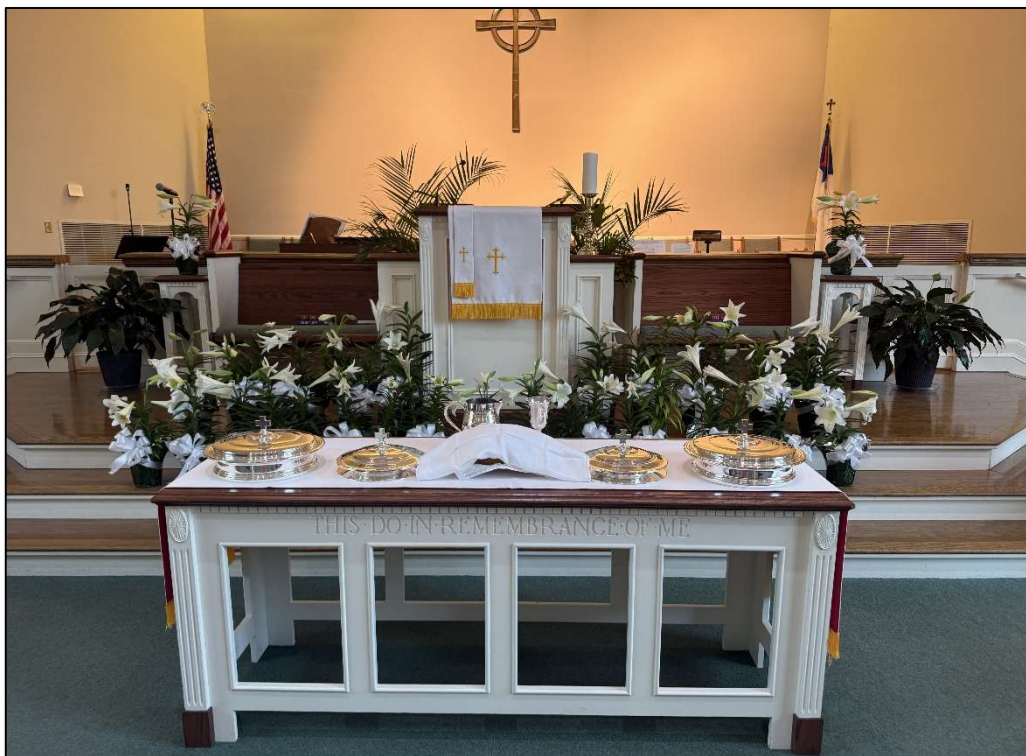
## Christ is Risen—Alleluia!



Singing at the Easter reception in the Narthex, accompanied by Bill Jacobs and David Bell.



The feast is prepared—the Risen Lord invites us to His table.



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# Sally H, Kauffmann Walk to Fight Hunger



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# BOBBY JO VALENTINE

HEART-OPENING, AWARD-WINNING FOLK/POP



**THURSDAY,  
MAY 21  
7:00 PM**

WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2330 COKESBURY RD  
GREENWOOD, SC

FREE WILL OFFERING  
RECEIVED AT THE  
CONCERT

*"Bobby Jo has both the spirit  
and songs that bring us back to  
believing. Whatever our faith, he  
has the humor, compassion,  
words, and music to help us  
believe again."*

**-Dar Williams**

*"Catchy songs with good tunes  
and intelligent, thoughtful  
lyrics in the tradition of Bob  
Dylan, Cat Stevens, and Bruce  
Hornsby."*

**-Stephen Schwartz, Tony  
award-winning creator of  
Godspell, Wicked, and Pippin**





# THE EXHIBITION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO THE WORLD

SUNDAY MAY 17  
10am Worship 2-4pm Public Reception

As a feature of our “Great Ends of the Church” Sermon Series, Westminster is hosting an art exhibition. Each piece of art completes the sentence: “The Kingdom of God is like...”

Join us for a joyful feast of visual and performance arts!

You are welcome to join us for worship and/or drop in anytime from 2:00 to 4:00 to meet the artists and enjoy the exhibit, performances, and refreshments.