



Give Thanks

*Let the message of Christ
dwell among you...
singing to God with gratitude
in your hearts.*

COLOSSIANS 3:16 (NIV)

You Are Welcome Here:

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Westminster is a welcoming and inclusive community seeking to grow in faith and understanding and to show God's love to those among us and those around us. We pray you experience our joyful welcome and God's peaceful presence as you worship with us today.

Questions about Westminster? Just ask! Any one of us would be glad to help.

Children at Westminster:

Children are an integral part of our church family. We are glad when they come to worship God with us. In our midst, children learn our rhythms of worship, become knit into our fellowship, and teach us as surely as we are teaching them.

After the "Time with All God's Children", children first grade and up (by age or development) are encouraged to remain in worship. Children in kindergarten and younger (by age or development) may depart with our caregivers and teachers for Children's Sunday School or remain with their parents for worship if they choose.

If this is your first visit to Westminster, you are welcome to accompany your child to Children's Sunday School so that you can meet our caregivers and help settle your child in. Children's worship packets are available in the narthex. As is a brochure regarding our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult protection policy.



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



Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God
Dedication Sunday
November 19, 2023

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming the Hour

Prelude

Words of Scripture

Psalm 107:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Welcome and Announcements

Nancy Hart Wicker

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 95:1-6

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to the Lord with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God
and a great King above all gods.

In God's hand are the depths of the earth;
And also the heights of the mountains.

The sea is the Lord's, for the Lord made it,
and the dry land, is formed by the hand of the Lord.

O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

***Hymn #551**

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the world is God's own field,
fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,*

*then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in God's garner evermore.*

*Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified,
in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come;
raise the glorious harvest home!*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We pause for personal prayer.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

***Passing the Peace**

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Time for All God's Children

Prayer of Illumination

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being^[a]
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One^[b]
and was presented before him.
¹⁴ To him was given dominion

and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 20:17-19

¹⁷ While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves and said to them on the way, ¹⁸“Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; ¹⁹ then they will hand him over to the gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and on the third day he will be raised.”

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

Anthem

“Lover”

Derek Webb

Nancy Hart Wicker, Elizabeth Watkins, Nigel Irons

*Like a man comes to an altar, I came into this town
With the world upon my shoulders and promises passed down
And I went into the water and my father, he was pleased
Oh I built it and I'll tear it down, so you will be set free*

*Yes, and I found thieves and salesmen, living in my father's house
And I know how they got in here and I know how to get them out
You see, I'm turning this place over from the floor to balcony
And then, just like these doves and sheep, oh, you will be set free*

*'Cause I have always been a lover from before I drew a breath
Well and somethings I loved easy, some I love to death
'Cause love's no politician, no it listens carefully
So of those who come, I can't lose one
So you will be set free, oh, you will be set free*

*I go on and take my picture, go on and make me up
Oh, I'll still be your defender, you'll be my missing son
Oh and I'll send out an army just to bring you back to me
'Cause regardless of your brothers lies, oh, you will be set free*

*Because I am my beloved's and my beloved's mine
So, you bring all your history, I'll bring the bread and wine
Oh and we'll have us a party oh where all the drinks are on me
And as surely as the rising sun, oh, you will be set free
Oh, you will be set free*

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

(Not) The End of the Story Part One: Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

*On the third day, he will be raised to life!
Matthew 20:19*

New Member Welcome

Nigel Irons

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

Today is our dedication Sunday, when we present our commitments of time, talent, and treasure and dedicate them to God's glory. Worshippers are invited to bring offering and commitment forms forward during the offertory hymn.

*Offertory Hymn #423

"Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun"

DUKE STREET

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

*To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.*

*People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.*

*Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.*

*Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!*

*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 Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn #339**

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

*The sanctuary flowers this Sunday are given by Steve & Claire Kuhl
in memory of Elbert Fields, father of Claire Kuhl.*

Serving Today at Westminster

Organ:	Larry Dozier
Vocalist:	Elizabeth Watkins
Liturgist:	Nancy Hart Wicker
Host:	The Wicker Family
Sunday Study:	Caroline Dennis
Tech Crew:	Arthur Gillespie
Children’s Sunday School:	Kathy Gillespie

Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room (<i>Adults</i>)
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children’s Wing (<i>Children and Youth</i>)
Worship & Communion	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children’s Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children’s Wing

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	Monday & Tuesday
Mindful Greenwood	6:30 pm	Tuesday Branches Sunday School

Note: BEMA Bible Discussion Group, Books & Brown Bags, and Crossover Contemplatives will not meet this week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Next Sunday, November 26

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir Room (<i>Adults</i>)
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children’s Wing (<i>Children and Youth</i>)
Worship	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children’s Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children’s Wing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we receive and dedicate the congregations commitments of time, talent, and treasure for 2024. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the gifts you will offer to the mission we share with Christ at Westminster. If you need a form, please find one on the table in the narthex. Together we are living a life that really matters, "faith working through love." (Galatians 5:6b)

TODAY at First Presbyterian Church: Heritage Day Worship Service

celebrating 140 years since the founding of First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1883, when members of Rock Presbyterian Church petitioned the Presbytery to form a new church closer to town. Nearly 100 years later, First Presbyterian Church partnered with Presbytery to give birth to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Come celebrate our shared history in Alexander Hall at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood at 6:00 pm this evening.

Study Opportunities at Westminster

- **Sunday Adult Study:** Sunday, November 26 begins our Advent Study, "Heaven and Earth" by Will Willimon. Books are available through the church office for \$16.

Fellowship Opportunities

- **Community Thanksgiving Service:** Main Street UMC is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 7:00pm. Message by Bishop McCray of Morris Chapel Baptist Church with Combined Choirs & Palmetto Girls Sing.
- **Lunch Bunch at Camp Fellowship:** Join Camp Fellowship on November 28, 2023, at 12:00pm for a delicious meal! \$10 per person with RSVP by November 20 or \$15 the day of. See the November newsletter for more details!

Prayer Concerns. Please help us know how we can be praying with you for your joys and concerns by filling out one of the prayer cards in the pew rack and placing those in the offering plate or by completing our on-line contact form.

Place Your Order for Christmas Poinsettias! If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the church during Christmas, please fill out the [pink](#) form which can be found in the narthex and online at <https://www.wpcgnwd.org/>. The cost of each poinsettia is \$20.00. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on December 10th and may be picked up after Christmas Day or from the church office the following week.



Order a Glory to God Hymnal! If you would like to order and dedicate a Glory to God Hymnal, please fill out the [purple](#) order form in the narthex or fill out the form online at <https://www.wpcgnwd.org/>. The cost is \$30.00 each. A recognition for whom the hymnal is given and the name of the giver will be on the inside panel of the hymnal.

College Students Head to Montreat (January 2-5) Members and friends of Westminster are excited to join a cohort of students from Greenwood and Laurens County in a delegation to the College Conference at the Montreat Conference Center during their winter break. We are fortunate that through our shared giving, housing for these students is provided at the South Carolina Inn by Trinity Presbytery's Mission and Evangelism Team. As you are certainly aware, budgets are tight for college students! The cost of the conference and food for the conference is \$200. Our Nurture and Education Committee invites anyone who is interested to help support students who wish to participate in this formative event. Scholarship gifts may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church, designating the college conference in your memo line.

Emergency Equipment Fund We celebrate that we are approximately 2/3s of the way towards our funding goal for important emergency equipment and training requested by our Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Team. Help us reach our goal! The Congregational Care Team has designated this fund as the recipient of our lunch donations at our Chili Lunch on Dec. 3.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Inclusive Community of Faith

United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ

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

Clerk of Session

Steve Kuhl

Treasurer

Len Bornemann

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2023

David Hammond

Richard Wilson

Class of 2024

Kathy Nave Felder

Claire Kuhl

Class of 2025

Tina Corley

Rob Graves

Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor

317.777.1487

Sunday Study 9:00 a.m. Church Service: 10:00 a.m.

CCLI License #2724601 and #20189191