

Weft & Warp

A young art student tries a new medium. Her instructor shows her how to thread the loom, adding the threads that will give length to her project. For this first one, the strings are sturdy undyed cotton. They will all but disappear when the color is added in the simple over/under pattern of the threads that give her project width.



Slowly, with each push of the pedal and each pass of the shuttle, her project grows until it is a broad cloth of color ready to be cut from the loom, and put to good use running down a table that will be laden with the best treats her friends have to offer—fresh tomatoes, steaming rolls, grilled corn, chicken wings, peach pie, and a wildflower bouquet. The art of this table is a community project.

Inspired by the colors on the table, she prepares the loom again. This time with multicolored weft threads that will match the threads she has chosen to cross them. As she weaves a more complicated pattern, a plaid appears. A tartan she will call “friendship.”

In the Reformed Tradition, we speak of visible signs of invisible graces. The tartans that will adorn our sanctuary on Sunday, September 7, whether worn by worshippers or borne in procession, are visible signs for us of both the goodly heritage Presbyterians trace through Scotland and the many threads from many places that give breadth to the fabric of our Westminster family, all held together by the length of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

Our artist God has imagined a beautiful community art project, providing a sturdy foundation for the cloth of friendship that grows day by day, inch by inch, and runs along a table laden with provision for all.

I am your pastor and friend,

 *Caroline*

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I appeal to you, siblings, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:9-10



Almighty God, Creator of the world, we give you thanks for the gift of stewardship and work. Deliver us, in our various occupations, from the service of self alone, that we may do our work in truth and beauty and for the common good, always to Your glory and honor. Amen!

September Sermon Series: Fruit Fully Abiding Together in Love

We are at once both fruit and fruit *bearers*. As fruit, we are the product of someone else's faithfulness. And as fruit bearers, we are branches abiding in the vine and showing forth the fruit of the Spirit, which Galatians 5:22-23 tells us comprises love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



In this month, we will give thanks for the faithful ones who have gone before us and tap into the vine to which they clung. A time such as this cries out for God's faithful ones to abide first and last in God's love and show that love to the world.

September 7: One Tartan, Many Threads

Kirkin' O' the Tartans/Communion/Food Bank

† 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

September 14: First Commandment

Be Fruitful and Multiply

† Genesis 12:6-31

† Galatians 5:13-26

September 21: Last Commandment

Abide in Me – Love One Another

† Isaiah 42:5-9

† John 15:1-17

September 28: Memory & Hope

Abiding Joy and Peace

Dr. Joe Gettys Special Offering

† Psalm 42

† Psalm 126

A Fruitful September Planned for Children's Sunday School

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie



The children's Sunday School class kicks off September with learning about the tradition of Kirkin' O' the Tartans on September 7. Then, on September 14, they begin a 10-week study of The Fruit of the Spirit. Each week they will read a Bible story that exemplifies a particular "fruit" and learn a new memory verse about that "fruit."

They will continue to illustrate their Memory Verse Journals and to develop skills that will help them participate in worship. Visitors are always welcome!

Presbyterian Women Reconvene on September 2

Submitted by Beth Hammond

All Westminster women are invited to grow as disciples through participation in our Presbyterian Women group. We begin our new season on Tuesday, September 2. Our new Bible Study is *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. The authors note that "Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy and stress. Joy, for Christians, is much more than happiness, but instead is putting our full trust in God during all of life's circumstances."

Bring a brown bag lunch and a beverage to the Choir Room at 11:30 A.M. We will enjoy fellowship together before beginning our study, which will be led by Pastor Caroline Dennis. We look forward to seeing everyone! Books are available from the Church Office for \$12.



Westminster Happenings

Monday
September 1 | ***Church Office closed for Labor Day Holiday***
The Upper Zoom and BEMA will not meet

Tuesday
September 2 | **Presbyterian Women**
Connect with friends old and new in the Choir Room at 11:30 A.M.
Plan for year ahead and dive into a new study (*see page 2*).

Wednesday
September 3 | **Books & Brown Bags Study Group** (*see page 5*)
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Begin *Practicing the Way*, by John Mark Comer.

Saturday
September 6 | **Worship Leader “Kirkin” Rehearsal**
Assemble in the Sanctuary at 10:30 A.M.
Walk through the order of worship, complete with pipes and drum.

Sunday
September 7 | **Sunday School**
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the **Fellowship Hall (Note new location)**.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
One Tartan, Many Threads
Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans/Communion/Food Bank Offering
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Celebrate our freedom to worship boldly, united as God’s children.

Monday
September 8 | **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.

Wednesday
September 9 | **Books & Brown Bags Study Group**
Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Study the Rule for Life that Jesus provides for His disciples.

Sunday
September 14 | **Sunday School**
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the **Fellowship Hall (Note new location)**.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
First Commandment: Be Fruitful and Multiply
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Consider what kind of fruitfulness God has in mind for you.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday September 14, <i>continued</i>	Stated Session Meeting Assemble in the Joe Gettys classroom at 11:15 A.M. Attend to the business of the church, with God's guidance.
Monday September 15	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.
Wednesday September 17	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Continue discussing <i>Practicing the Way</i> .
Thursday September 18	Rainbow Fellowship Save the date—the Rainbow Fellowship returns October 19 th ! Be on the lookout for details in your October <i>Westminster Times</i> .
Sunday September 21	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall (Note new location) . Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Last Commandment: Abide in me. Love One Another. Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Strengthen your connection to the True Vine that supports you.
Monday September 22	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.
Wednesday September 24	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Bring your sack snack to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Make space for God's transforming work by following Jesus.
Thursday September 25	PFLAG Meeting Connect in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Share stories with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Sunday
September 28**

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the **Fellowship Hall (Note new location)**.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Memory and Hope: Abiding Joy and Peace

Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Never forget that you are a beloved child of God, invited to abide always.

Pop-Up Presbyterians Trip: “Come From Away” Musical

Congregate at Greenville’s Center Stage Theatre at 3:00 P.M. (*see page 7*)
Enjoy an afternoon of theatre, conversation, and gourmet Italian food.

Encouragement for Putting Faith into Practice

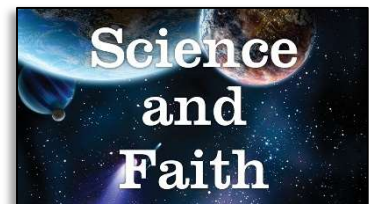


Books & Brown Bags: *Practicing the Way*, by John Mark Comer
Every Wednesday in September
6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. in the Joe Gettys Room

Our first book of the fall season is *Practicing the Way*, by John Mark Comer. The first followers of Jesus developed a Rule of Life, or habits and practices based on the life of Jesus himself. As they learned to live like their teacher, they became people who made space for God to do his most transformative work in their lives. *Practicing the Way* is a vision for the future, shaped by the wisdom of the past. It’s an introduction to spiritual formation accessible to both beginners and lifelong followers of Jesus. Author Comer’s mission is to create simple, beautiful faith formation resources for church communities around the world.

Science & Faith: Conflict or Completion?

Adult Sunday Study: Science and Faith
Sunday Mornings
9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall



Too many media conversations about faith and science start with the assumption that they are perpetually at war. That you can’t be a good scientist *and* worship God. That you can’t be a good Christian *and* believe evolution.

Spoiler Alert: The title of our Fall Sunday school series gives away the official PC(USA) response. We know that it is “science *and* faith,” not “science *versus* faith.”

Beginning Sunday, September 7th, Dr. Steve Kuhl and his wife, Claire, are facilitating a six-week study series that explores this hotly debated intersection. As a retired researcher, Steve speaks with first-hand knowledge about the friction that does exist, and explores the deeper truths.

Initial response to this topic has been strong, so we are optimistically **moving Sunday morning study to the Fellowship Hall, so there is plenty of room for one and all!** If you haven’t experienced adult Sunday study ever or in a while, this is a great time to jump in!



Our Kirkin' worship service on Sunday, September 7th, celebrates the beginning of Fall and the reunion of Westminster friends and family returning from summer adventures. Welcome home!

Important Note: Our worship that day will be graced by bagpipes. Their sound is unique, beautiful, and *loud*. If you or your child are sensitive to loud sounds, consider using ear protection for worship.

Church Family Special Dates

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

- ❖ 15th – Josh Wicker
- ❖ 16th – Willow Wicker
- ❖ 19th – John Sholar
- ❖ 24th – Larry Dozier
- ❖ 27th – Elizabeth Watkins



Did we miss your special day? Don't forget that you can now update online using WPC's confidential instantchurchdirectory.com.

Good Spellers Wanted for Westminster Wonders Bee Team

On Tuesday, September 25, dozens of good spellers from all around Greenwood will gather at Emerald High School to put their abilities to the test for a good cause: the annual Healthy Learners Adult Spelling Bee.

Spectators will cheer on 4-person teams vying for bragging rights about their spelling prowess while raising money for Healthy Learners, a local nonprofit. If you'd like to be on the Westminster Wonders spelling team, contact the church office. And to cheer them on, come to Emerald High School at 6:00 P.M. on September 25th.



Healthy Learners is on a mission to transform the futures of children in poverty in South Carolina by keeping them healthy so they can learn. Working with teachers and healthcare providers, Healthy Learners identifies children with medical or dental needs, and provides both transportation and access to top professional care.

September 8th is National Ampersand Day!



On September 8th—and every day—give thanks to our loving God for all the “yes, *and*” blessings in your life. It's also a great day to pray for Westminster as we unite in living into our “yes, *and*” vision of being:

- Outward **&** inward
- Diverse **&** united
- Flexible **&** faithful
- Exploring **&** Sustaining



For Heather McDonald
September 18
4:30 in the Fellowship Hall
All Westminster Ladies Invited

A Very Special “Pop-Up Presbyterians”



On September 28 at 3:00 P.M., Westminster theatre-lovers will congregate at Greenville’s Centre Stage (501 River Street) to enjoy *Come From Away*, a musical that follows the residents of Gander, Newfoundland as they offer radical hospitality to some 7,000 strangers forced to land in their small town on September 11, 2001.

Among those welcomed were our own Caroline and Phillip Dennis, along with their daughters, Helen and Hannah. After the show, we’ll cheer on Caroline and Phillip as they share their story in a “talkback” session. To join us for the show, please purchase your own tickets to *Come From Away* online (centrestage.org) or by phone (864-233-6733).

More about More Light

Submitted by Laine Horowitz, M&O Co-chair and Autumn Mossman

Our church, via first the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team and then the Session, has joined two organizations devoted to helping churches become fully affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community and to helping members of the community find these churches: Covenant Network of Presbyterians and More Light Presbyterians. Both organizations are Presbyterian nonprofits. This month, we offer information about More Light Presbyterians.



More Light Presbyterians is the result of two different events in our Presbyterian history. In 1974, Rev. David Sindt held up a sign at the Presbyterian General Assembly that asked, “Is anyone else out there gay?” This one act, this one sign, led to the formation of Presbyterians for Gay Concerns, which later became Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

Then, in 1978, there was a Presbytery ruling that openly LGBTQIA+ people could join and participate in Presbyterian churches, but disallowed them from serving in leadership roles. Several churches took issue with this

Continued on page 12

M&O Update

Submitted by Richard Wilson, M&O Co-chair

Greetings from your Mission & Outreach Ministry Team. Our group has been very busy this summer, maintaining our active programs and planning future programs and opportunities for the future seasons.

One area of service that has been discussed is outreach to our area nursing homes and eldercare facilities. Some residents in these facilities have no family members residing in the local area, and therefore have no visitors, or at least very few.



Our team has discussed the feasibility of having individuals and/or couples to visit these facilities and contact the nursing staff to ascertain which residents need visitors.

Once permission is granted by the nursing staff to visit these individuals, it is a great time to share a gift of flowers or other items with the resident, and to share the message of Jesus and His love of us all. The Bible tells us in many passages of scripture to care for the needs of widows and orphans, of which many are residents of these facilities.

This past Lenten season, Mary Anne and I visited National Health Center (NHC) here

Continued on page 13

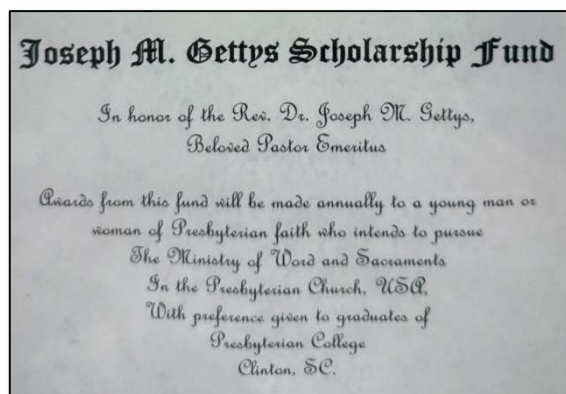
Honoring the Memory of Our Organizing Pastor

Submitted by Theresa Jacobs

On September 28, Westminster will receive a special offering for the Dr. Joseph M. Gettys Scholarship for students attending the Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

Who is Joe Gettys? Dr. Joseph M. Gettys was the Organizing Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister who taught at several colleges, including Erskine and Presbyterian College (PC), ultimately becoming academic dean at PC. In 1980, at age 73, "Dr. Joe," as everyone at Westminster knew him, was tapped by our presbytery to lead an effort to establish a church on the North side of Greenwood. That church became Westminster, Greenwood.

Dr. Joe was a multi-talented individual (as he taught us that *we* also are!), who grew up on a farm in York County. A master woodworker, he used his cabinet-making skills to build a pulpit for use in the library at Cambridge Academy, where the church initially met. That pulpit is still in use in our Fellowship Hall. It features a Celtic Cross that has become a symbol that we use today. (Look around our sanctuary for numerous examples!) We have a classroom adjacent to the Fellowship Hall dedicated in honor of Dr. Joe.



Under Dr. Joe's leadership, we erected our first educational building (1982), and we called Larry Duncan, our first full-time minister (1983).

Dr. Gettys continued to support Westminster in numerous ways, frequently returning as a guest minister. He taught Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church in Clinton until age 105, and he conducted Vespers at the Presbyterian Communities Home in Clinton until his death at age 109.

The Dr. Joseph M. Gettys Scholarship was established in 2003 by Westminster Presbyterian Church in memory of Dr. Joe. It is awarded to students at Columbia Theological Seminary (from which our very own Caroline Dennis graduated!) who intend to become PC(USA) pastors. Please prayerfully consider your gift to this most worthy cause.

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do His will, as He works among us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Share Your Story

Submitted by Luke Christie, W&M Chair

As Presbyterians, we value the participation of all God's people in worship. That's why worship services at Westminster include not only the Pastor, but also liturgists, vocalists, hosts, Elders...*you!* In keeping with this commitment to worship as our collective offering to Christ and the Church, the Worship & Music Ministry Team invites you to participate in worship by offering a new kind of "mission moment."

Specifically, we invite you, in three minutes or less, to share one way that you seek to live out one component of WPC's mission statement:

- 1) Being/building an inclusive community of faith
- 2) Abiding in God's love
- 3) Enjoying God
- 4) Following Jesus
- 5) Growing disciples

If you feel led by the Spirit to offer a "mission moment" in worship, please let Pastor Caroline or Luke Christie, Worship & Music chairperson, know. Caroline will help you develop your statement, and we will coordinate a Sunday for you to present.

CC&F Behind the Scenes

Your Congregational Care & Fellowship Ministry Team has had a very busy summer. One high point was hosting the Western Cluster joint Ice Cream Social in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 17.

The Western Cluster is one of the most active in Trinity Presbytery. Churches in our cluster: Abbeville, Calhoun Falls, First Presbyterian-Greenwood, Hodges, Little Mountain, Lowndes, New Faith, McCormick, Ninety Six, Upper Long Cane, Ware Shoals, and Westminster. At least half the congregations were represented.

As the picture below attests, there was no shortage of yummy treats! Singers from Ware Shoals set the tone with their anthems, and the rest joined in to sing old favorites. What a great way to enjoy God!



Update from Your Business Affairs Ministry Team

Submitted by Bill Kimler, BAMT Chair

"Then he said to them, 'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's,
and to God what is God's.'"

Matthew 22:21

As the chair of the Business Affairs Ministry Team (BAMT), I have the privilege of executing upon the "give back to Caesar what is Caesar's" part of Jesus's command to us. Notice, he didn't say adhering to your earthly commitments was a bad thing! We must take care of our worldly obligations so that we can be free to focus on our spiritual needs as well. That's BAMT's role: Take care of all the Caesar-y stuff (is that even a word?) so that the other ministry teams are enabled to "enjoy God, follow Jesus, and grow disciples"!

Continued on page 10

BAMT Update, continued from page 9

We're now in the beginnings of our 2026 budgeting cycle, and we have some amazing challenges and opportunities ahead of us. Uppermost on our mind is our aging facility, which is the physical "body" in which our Church's spirit spends a lot of time! Just like we need to take care of our human bodies, we need to take care of our buildings and grounds as well, so that it is a safe, functional, and inspirational place to meet, grow, and worship together in Christ. We've embarked on replacing a couple of cooling units that have outlived their lifespans, but still have more on the list that we're keeping an eye on. We know the roof is also reaching the end of its lifespan, and will need to be addressed in the upcoming years. We want to update the lighting in our sanctuary to bring brilliance to our services. And we want to demonstrate our commitment to inclusivity by installing automated doors and making our restrooms more accessible.

So please join with me in the upcoming Stewardship Campaign to renew (or make for the first time) a commitment to be part of what makes Westminster Presbyterian Church unique. And if you have made a commitment already, now would be a perfect time to follow through with it, if you are able.

As Rev. Rosemary C. Mitchell eloquently wrote:

"The church is a unique institution. We are intergenerational. We value all gifts at every level. The church recognizes that each person has their own personal responsibility for their life/finances and their sense of responsibility to give back a portion to God as a 'thank you' for all we have received from God. That's why it is called *stewardship* and not *fundraising*.

Does every member have an obligation to give? Absolutely yes. But remember—we are judged by our faithfulness, commitment, and personal gratitude, not by the amount of money that we give."

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.



July 2025

	July Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$23,748	\$20, 295	\$152,280	\$142,063
Total Expenses	\$21,725	\$19,797	\$138,075	\$138,580
Net Gain/Loss	\$2,023		\$14,205	

Non-member giving offset a shortfall in Member giving. Spending remains well-controlled.

Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer Len Bornemann or to the Business Affairs Ministry Team.



Including, Abiding, Enjoying, Following, and Growing

A series exploring Westminster's foundational statements and strategic intention

Back in January, your Session adopted Mission and Vision Statements for Westminster. By now, you should recognize their elements when you see them. (How many references can you find in this newsletter? Did you spot the Vision statement anywhere?) And you should be able to offer the Mission Statement in response to questions like “what’s so special about Westminster?” We are an inclusive community of faith abiding in God’s love and committed to enjoying God, following Jesus, and growing disciples. Easy!

The Mission and Vision are necessary to our identity within the greater body of Christ. But they are not sufficient when it comes to determining *how* we go about living into them. For that, your Session established three strategic directions to guide us in prioritizing our work and worship efforts. Here are the three directions, listed in priority order:

- Be [More] Foundational
- Be [More] Matthew 25
- Be [More] Connectional

Why is *more* enclosed in brackets? Because it’s not that we aren’t already focused on fundamentals, actively pursuing Matthew 25 goals, and building connections internally and externally. The point is that, as we make decisions as a church family, our intention is to build on those strengths and do even *more*.

Next Month: What does it mean to “be [more] foundational”?

September is Suicide Prevention Month

The statistical and developmental information was excerpted from an article from the UCLAHealth.org website.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24 in the U.S. Nearly 20% of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide and 9% have made an attempt to take their lives, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.



“This is not an issue reserved for the far and away,” wrote Miller. “It is in our homes. It is in our conversations. It is in the people we love.”

Young people are particularly vulnerable to suicide, says Carl Fleisher, MD, who specializes in adolescent and child psychiatry at UCLA Health.

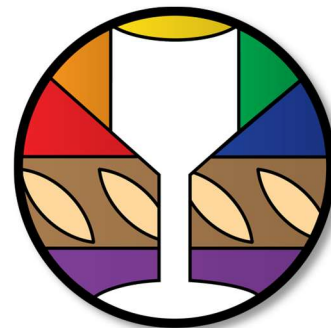
“Teenagers and young adults have the highest rates of suicide compared to other ages,” Dr. Fleisher says. “The things that make them vulnerable are where they stand socially and where they stand developmentally.”

Developmentally, their judgment and decision-making abilities are still coming online, he says. The prefrontal cortex — the brain’s executive control center — doesn’t fully develop until one’s mid-20s. That makes young people more impulsive, Dr. Fleisher says: “They’re not going to weigh risks and consequences or values in quite the same way that older folks will.”

More about More Light, continued from page 7

...and began calling themselves “More Light” Churches. Why *More Light*? Because they felt there was “yet more light to shine forth on the scriptures” on their main concern at that time, homosexuality.

These churches formally announced themselves as the More Light Presbyterian Churches network in 1992, and they combined with the Presbyterians for Lesbians and Gay Concerns in 1999 to form a nonprofit organization.



How does the mission statement of More Light align with Westminster’s mission statement?

MLP: “More Light Presbyterians’ mission is to center and celebrate the lives, gifts, and leadership of LGBTQIA+ people in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and beyond.”

WPC: “Westminster Presbyterian Church is called by God to be an inclusive community of faith, abiding in God’s love, and committed to . . . Growing Disciples.”

What better way is there to be an inclusive community of faith and grow disciples than celebrating the “lives, gifts, and leadership” of a marginalized community, many of whom are searching for healing and affirmation in a House of God?

MLP: “We accomplish this by igniting the prophetic witness of our ministry partners and by cultivating relationships rooted in mutual accountability and care.”

WPC: “. . . abiding in God’s love, and committed to: . . . Following Jesus. . .”

A favorite quote of many is often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words.” By following Jesus, we not only bring our ministry to the forefront, we also shine a light on our ministry partners. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors. We can do that by building relationships based on mutual respect, accountability, and care.

MLP: “Together, we journey toward God’s promised liberation and flourishing for all creation.”

WPC: “. . . abiding in God’s love, and committed to Enjoying God. . .”

You don’t hear much about “enjoying” God. There is so much fire and brimstone. There is “the fear of God.” However, we all learned that “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible told me so,” when we were kids. This most recognizable of songs speaks of a loving God, a God who enjoys us. Why shouldn’t we enjoy God in return? When we focus on enjoying God and God’s creation, there are fewer closed doors along our path to the freedom God has promised us and the flourishing of creation.

We hope you feel connected with both More Light Presbyterians and the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Joining these two organizations was a natural progression in our journey to becoming a fully affirming church, one that reaches out to the LGBTQIA+ community and says not only, “Welcome” with no conditions, but that offers true affirmation and acceptance.

Mission & Outreach Update, continued from page 7

in Greenwood to find a person who had no local family or visitors. After meeting with the Director of Nursing to attain permission for the visit, we were shown to the Memory Care station and spoke with the charge nurse. We were taken to the room of an elderly woman who was both surprised and elated to see someone other than staff enter her room, especially since we took her a beautiful Easter lily, which had adorned our Sanctuary during Lent.



We enjoyed a nice visit with her, and discussed many varied topics of interest to her. Upon conclusion of our visit, the nursing staff thanks us for our visit, and we left with a feeling of accomplishment for having made a difference in someone's life.

You can see from this visit how easy it is to share your time with someone who really needs the company of others in their life. Loneliness abounds in nursing homes, private homes, and other care facilities right here in Greenwood. You can also share your time and be the facilitator of God's most important message: to love one another.



Fall Fun at Camp Fellowship

Summer camping season may have ended, but something good is always happening at Camp Fellowship! Here are some upcoming opportunities that you don't want to miss.

Lights on the Lake Labor Day Celebration

Saturday, August 30, 2025

4:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.



The fireworks and festivities that we've enjoyed previously on the Fourth of July have been moved to Labor Day weekend. In addition to fun, food, and fireworks, you can also groove to live music and root for your favorite college football team via large-screen TV displays.



The Learning Current: Beekeeping 101

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 A.M.

Learn all about beekeeping and honey production with The Learning Current at Fellowship Camp and Conference Center. Chad Farrell will present with a live working demonstration beehive. Registration is not required, but suggested, so that we have a seat ready for you. Stay after the lecture for lunch.

Feast and Fellowship Community Lunch

First Tuesday of Every Month

12:00 P.M.



Come enjoy a tasty meal at the Camp Fellowship Dining Hall. Savor a delectable "meat 'n' three" lunch (with dessert!) and create new community connections with your fellow diners. Suggested donation is \$10 per person, and can be paid at the door with cash, check, or credit card. RSVP by emailing info@campfellowship.org.

Let Us Pray...



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

*"Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit"*

Jude 1:20

- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Kathy Felder
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Savanah & Briar Rose
- Dashe & Aaron Hoang
- Denise Waldrep
- The Watkins Family
- Ed Watkins
- Kathy West
- Mary Anne Wilson
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- The Dennis family
- Your Session

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
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank
- Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- 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):

- Greg Anderson (*Theresa*)
- Dan Blimline (*Mary Anne*)
- Judy Buck (*Lucia*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- John Gettys (*Mary Anne*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Lori Holloway (*Suzy*)
- Amy Jennings (*Denise*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Steve*)
- Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Dabney Mahanes (*Denise*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Patricia Lytle (*Beth*)
- Tarri McKinney (*Suzy*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Cameron Murphy (*Sarah*)
- Richard Pinkney (*Len*)
- The Radas (*Joyce*)
- Lorene Waldrep (*Denise*)
- Tatum Foley (*Heather*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Michaela (*Sarah*)
- Jodi (*Lucia & Laine*)
- Elle (*Rogers*)



For the World

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

- For college students, professors, and staff as they start the semester
- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For the safety of Christians in Pakistan and other war-torn areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and elsewhere
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For those living with mental, emotional, and/or physical illnesses
- For unity among Christians in every congregation, country, and corner of the world

And God Saw That It Was Good



Tim Rogers snapped this photo of the Toddler Learning Center “fleet” at rest.



Ginny sculpts at Dinner Church.



Aaron and Dashe celebrate their first wedding anniversary.



The Newcomers Mini-Series group digs into Westminster’s Mission, Vision, and Values, and considers *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*, by Donald K. McKim.

Destruction Followed by Rebirth

Submitted by Denise Waldrep



Roots ripped, upturned,
Roots now grounding in Light.
The Light shines and new roots sprout.
From destruction, new life.
From darkness and Light,
Life's colors come.

During September, thoughts of the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene a year ago come to our minds. We also celebrate the resilience of nature and God's care shown through the hearts and actions of the helpers who pitched in to clean up.

During my Spiritual Direction studies at Haden Institute, I designed the centerpiece/focal point for our April intensive that symbolized the most basic pattern of life—destruction followed by rebirth. We used roots and branches from the downed oaks in my yard and a young redbud tree to create 4 stages of this pattern which you can see in the photo. Where have you seen rebirth following destruction in your life this last year?