



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

You Are Welcome Here:

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. We pray you experience our joyful welcome and God's peaceful presence as you worship with us today.

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

The Sanctuary is a Place of Reverence and Worship

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

Children at Westminster:

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

Please take children to the restroom before worship. If you need to leave the sanctuary during worship, please use the exits at the rear of the sanctuary. We ask that families sit together during worship and that no child move unaccompanied through the building.

Children's worship packets are available on the front pew and are given out after *The Time With All Gods 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.

A brochure regarding our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult protection policy is available in the narthex.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God**

July 5, 2026

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming the Hour

Prelude

Words of Scripture

Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Welcome and Announcements

Luke Christie

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down upon the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,

running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,

life forevermore.

***Hymn #331**

“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

NATIONAL HYMN

331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

This hymn was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.**

**You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.**

We pause for personal prayer.

**By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 for Illumination

Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 32:1-33:18

32 Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him; ² when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's camp!" So he called that place Mahanaim.

³ Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, ⁴ instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have lived with Laban as an alien and stayed until now, ⁵ and I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves, and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.' "

⁶ The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him." ⁷ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed, and he divided the people who were with him and the flocks and herds and camels into two companies, ⁸ thinking, "If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the company that is left will escape."

⁹ And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,' ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. ¹¹ Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. ¹² Yet you have said, 'I will surely do you good and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.' "

¹³ So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, ¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, ¹⁵ thirty milch camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. ¹⁶ These he delivered into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between drove and drove." ¹⁷ He instructed the one in the lead, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?' ¹⁸ then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob; they are a present sent to my lord Esau, and moreover he is behind us.' " ¹⁹ He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you meet him, ²⁰ and you shall say, 'Moreover your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he

thought, “I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterwards I shall see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” ²¹ So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself spent that night in the camp.

²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷ So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. ³² Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

33 Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. ² He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³ He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵ When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” ⁶ Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; ⁷ Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸ Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor with my lord.” ⁹ But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” ¹⁰ Jacob said, “No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand, for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God, since you have received me with such favor. ¹¹ Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have everything I want.” So he urged him, and he took it.

¹² Then Esau said, “Let us journey on our way, and I will go alongside you.” ¹³ But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing, are a care to me, and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. ¹⁴ Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.”

¹⁵ So Esau said, “Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “Why should my lord be so kind to me?” ¹⁶ So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. ¹⁷ But Jacob journeyed to Succoth and built himself a house and made booths for his cattle; therefore the place is called Succoth.

¹⁸ Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city.

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

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Home Coming”

*But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him
and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.
Genesis 33:4*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

***Hymn #418**

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

CONFESSION

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

***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 Spirit, 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn #340**

“This is My Song”

FINLANDIA

340

This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, Lloyd Stone; stanza 3, Georgia Harkness, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

Text St. 1–2 © 1934, ren. 1962 *The Lorenz Corp.*; St. 3 © 1964 *The Lorenz Corp.*

Music Arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 *The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)*

FINLANDIA
 11.10.11.10.11.10

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

Serving Today at Westminster

Organist: Claire Kuhl
Liturgist: Luke Christie
Host: Tim & Mary Rogers
Children's Sunday School: Kathy Gillespie

Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys 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.

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	T-Th	
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 pm	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Movie Night	5:30 pm	Wednesday	Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, July 12

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys 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
Congregational Meeting	11:00 am	Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Opportunities at Westminster

Sunday Adult Study: Join us for Adult Study this Sunday at 9:00 am in the Joe Gettys Room as we explore a new *Wired Word* lesson connecting current events and Scripture.

Books and Brown Bags will not meet on July 1 or 8. The group will reconvene on July 15 for a viewing of the movie, *The Shack*.

Congregational Meeting Please note that a congregational meeting has been set for July 12 at the end of worship to consider the following persons to fix 6-month terms: Elder Class of 2026: David Grier. Nominating Committee Class of 2026: Luke Christie, Chairperson.

Worship on the Water Sails On!

10:00 A.M. on Sundays

Please continue to support Worship on the Water by praying, by attending, and especially by inviting everyone you know to come experience God's grace, love, and bounty. Remember - Come by Boat, Come by Car, Come as You Are!



Family Movie Night – Party Like It's 1969!
Wednesday, July 8 | 5:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Join the Congregational Care & Fellowship Ministry Team for a fun family movie night! Enjoy classic episodes of *The Jetsons* followed by Disney's *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes* starring Kurt Russell. Pizza, popcorn, and beverages will be provided. Please chip in \$5 to help defray costs.

Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and join us for an evening of food, fun, and a trip back to 1969!



Parents, Youth and Children Save the Date July 31, 2026, will be the first WPC Parents Night Out – Sign-in will start at 5:00pm with pick up by 8:30pm. Parents plan for a night out while kids enjoy a snack supper and recreation including games, music, conversation and time to just be with your church friends. To make this happen, youth leaders will need volunteer adults to come out and play.



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

Clerk of Session
Claire Kuhl

Treasurer
David Hammond

Office Manager
Charleston Warner

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2026
Laine Horowitz
Richard Wilson

Class of 2027
Luke Christie
Bill Kimler

Class of 2028
Ginny Cartee
Rob Graves

Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor
317.777.1487

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

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