

The Dash Between and the Ellipses after the Dust

Lent is a great reality check. It begins with the pastor saying these words from scripture as she marks your brow with a cross made from the ashes of last year's palm parade: "From dust you came—and to dust you shall return...." (Genesis 3:19).



That's where we start, with the curse God spoke over Adam and Eve after their great disobedience. If the story had ended there, we would have been left with only the brief dash between the dust from which we came and the dust to which we will someday return. The scripture preceding this declaration says that dash will be marked by the daily toil to put bread on the table.

But the story didn't end there. Because God kept coming back, pulling God's people out of the dust again and again, and feeding them when they couldn't feed themselves. God even showed them how to pull each other out of the dust, and how to feed one another—widows and orphans and strangers first. God gave them a story and some rules to live by for the dash between the dust. God made God's self available in the dash for expressions of gratitude and solace in the storms.

God sent deliverers, prophets, poets, judges, and kings. Ultimately, God came in person to show us how to live the dash between the dust *and* to make the way to the ellipses *after* the dust.

That is the reality check of the resurrection. Jesus came, lived, died, rose, and reigns so that we might hear the rest of the story: "From dust you came. To dust you shall return. But wait... there's more!" In Jesus Christ, we have come to know that God never leaves us in the dust.

In Lent, let us turn towards the one who lifts us out of the dust and gives us life in the dash, and beyond.

"Jesus said to her,
'I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live,
even though they die.'
John 11:25

With joy in the journey from life into life, I am your pastor and friend,



Caroline P.S. Check out the poem on page 24!

February Sermon Series: On the Way to Lent— a Holy Hike Toward God and Neighbor



The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9) is the pinnacle of our hike towards Lent. From this mountaintop experience, we will descend to the valley of our own humanity on Ash Wednesday and walk with Jesus into the wilderness where he will be tempted by Satan. This journey up the mountain prepares us to enter into our own 40-day journey toward the cross and resurrection, as we join in the ancient Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

During the six Sundays of Lent, we will be considering the atoning work of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and reign, seeking answers to the challenging question, "Why did Jesus have to die?"

February 1: Time to Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God

Communion at Home

† Micah 6:8

February 8: Preparing for the Fast

Souper Bowl Special Offering

† Isaiah 58:1-12

February 15: Heavenly Hikes

Transfiguration Sunday

† Exodus 24:12-18

† Matthew 17:1-19

February 18: Return, Restore, Reconcile

Ash Wednesday

† Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

† Psalm 51:1-17

† 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

February 22: The Problem of Sin

First Sunday in Lent

† Genesis 2:17-17, 3:1-7

† Romans 5:12-19

† Matthew 4:1-11

"For all have fallen short..."

Children's Sunday School: Candlemas and Beyond

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie



After learning about Christmas Around the World, the Children's Sunday School Class continued their journey during January by learning about other Christian celebrations, including Timkat, Ethiopia's January 19 celebration of Jesus' baptism. They will end their travels with Candlemas, which is celebrated on February 2.

In February, the class will review the parts of worship and make more bookmarks for the new hymnals. Later in the month, they will focus on the Book of Matthew, with emphasis on Jesus' parables.

PW: Meeting and Mission

Submitted by Beth Hammond

Presbyterian Women will meet in the Joe Gettys Room on Tuesday, February 3, at 11:30 A.M. Please bring your lunch and beverage and join us! The program will be led by Lucia Horowitz and is Lesson 6, "Finding Our Joy in Christ: I Say It Again, Rejoice." All women of all ages are welcome—no prior PW experience required!



Our mission is "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."

Westminster Happenings

Sunday February 1	<i>Weather Emergency: onsite activities cancelled</i> Time to Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God Worship at 10:00 A.M. at home via Zoom using link sent by email. Prepare a worship space and gather elements for communion.
	<p>He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8</p>
Monday February 2	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 February 3	Presbyterian Women's Circle (<i>see page 2</i>) Bring a lunch and join the Circle in the Joe Gettys Room at 11:30 A.M. Learn about "Finding Our Joy in Christ" from our study.
Wednesday February 4	Better Together Wellness Group (<i>see page 7</i>) Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M. Discuss the benefits of regular movement and stretching. Books & Brown Bags Study Group Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. (<i>see page 7</i>). Continue our exploration of <i>How to Know a Person</i> , by David Brooks.
Thursday February 5	Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Meeting Come together in the Choir Room at 6:00 P.M. Interested in connecting with the community? New members welcome!
Saturday February 7	Mindful Meditation Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.
Sunday February 8	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Room. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Preparing the Fast—Souper Bowl Special Offering (<i>see page 8</i>) Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Consider carefully what it means when God calls you to fast.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Monday
February 9**

Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom

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,
February 10**

Business Affairs Ministry Team Meeting

Meet in the Parlor at 6:00 P.M.

Wondering how church business works behind the scenes? Come see!

Congregational Care & Fellowship Committee Meeting

Congregate at 7:00 P.M. in the Choir Room.

Come share your ideas for promoting positive relationships.

**Wednesday
February 11**

Better Together Wellness Group

Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M.

Focus on the value of strength training and aerobic exercise.

Books & Brown Bags Study Group

Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Discuss the significance of seeing and hearing those around you.

**Saturday
February 14**

Saint Valentine's Day (*see page 9*)

Trinity Presbytery Stated Meeting (*see page 9*)

Congregate at 9:00 A.M. at Northminster Church in Columbia.

Participate in our presbytery's governance by prayer or your presence.

Mindful Meditation

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

**Sunday
February 15**

Sunday School

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys room.

Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.

Heavenly Hikes

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

Make your way to the mountaintop with Jesus, Peter, James, and John.

Sunday Sustenance

Savor a tasty lunch provided by Chef Rob and his sous chefs.

Bring some extra cash to contribute to our Angel Fund (*see page 11*).

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday
February 15,
continued | **Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting**
Come to the Joe Gettys room immediately following lunch.
Plan for the wonderful ways Westminster will be worshiping this spring.

Monday
February 16 | **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
February 17 | **Shrove Tuesday** (*see pages 10 & 11*)
Bring your appetite to First Presbyterian-Greenwood at 5:30 P.M.
Enjoy a last-blast pancake feast before Lenten fasting begins.

Wednesday
February 18 | **Ash Wednesday**
Better Together Wellness Group
Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 p.m.
Explore issues surrounding metabolic health and insulin resistance.
Note: Books & Brown Bags Study Group will not meet
Ash Wednesday Worship
Communion & Imposition of Ashes (see page 10)
Join us in the sanctuary or online at 6:00 P.M.
Reflect on our call to return, restore, and reconcile.

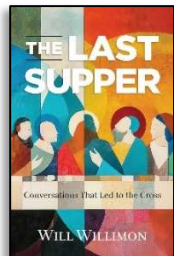
Thursday
February 19 | **PFLAG Meeting**
Connect in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Find support with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Saturday
February 21 | **Mindful Meditation**
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

Sunday
February 22 | **Sunday School**
Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys room.
Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
The Problem of Sin
Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming.
Look to Jesus for lessons in how to respond to temptation.

Monday February 23	<p>Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.</p> <p>Lenten Yoga Series Come as you are to the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 P.M. (<i>See page 12</i>) Engage in the gentle discipline of yoga for rest, reflection, and renewal.</p> <p>BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.</p>
Wednesday February 25	<p>Lenten Pilgrimage (<i>see page 11 & 22</i>) Engage in worship at 12:30 p.m.; enjoy lunch before or after. Prepare body, mind, and spirit for the pain and joy to come.</p> <p>Better Together Wellness Group Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 p.m. Consider the pros and cons of macronutrients.</p> <p>Books & Brown Bags Study Group Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Begin a new book: <i>Evidence Not Seen</i>, by Darlene Deibler Rose.</p>
Saturday February 28	<p>Mindful Meditation Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>John Bacot Funeral Honor John at 10:30 A.M. at Wesley Commons in Asbury Chapel. Celebrate the life of a true servant of God who touched many, many lives.</p>

Adult Sunday Study: Lenten Study Focused on Communion



Beginning the first Sunday in Lent, February 22, the Adult Sunday Study group will gather around the table to study *The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross*, the most recent publication by William H. Willimon:

“Experience Lent through the lens of Jesus's most powerful mealtime parables. Travel with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem in this profound six-week Lenten study that explores the parables and stories Jesus told at tables along the way to his final meal. Will Willimon invites readers to experience how these table stories—about searching shepherds, welcoming hosts, prodigal sons, and rejected invitations—illuminate the deeper meaning of the Last Supper and Christ's sacrifice.”

Willimon is well known for his service as pastor, educator, and bishop in the Methodist Church. He is the author of roughly one hundred books. Over a million copies of his books have been sold. In 1996, an international survey conducted by Baylor University named him one of the Twelve Most Effective Preachers in the English-speaking world.

Instead of giving up something for Lent, considering taking on a new spiritual discipline—give Sunday morning study a whirl! No prior Bible study experience required.

And If You Can't Make It to Sunday Study...



Watch for details about our new virtual Lenten study. Ginny Cartee, our recently installed Nurture & Education Ministry Team leader, recognizes that 9:00 A.M. at the church on Sunday morning just isn't workable for everyone who would love to participate in an interactive study. She has proposed to pilot a Zoom-based virtual Bible study, and volunteered to lead the discussion.

The study will use the same material as the adult Sunday study group (*see page 6*). Dates and time for the Zoom events are still being worked out. If you are interested in participating, contact Ginny at gcartee600@gmail.com to let her know. What a wonderful new way to enjoy God, follow Jesus, and grow disciples!

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Living Better Together

Lifestyle choices can have a positive or a negative impact on optimizing the working of this miraculous body God has given us. The Better Together series offers interactive sessions that focus on one area of wellness.



Topics for February are:

- 2/2 – Movement and stretching
- 2/11 – Strength training/aerobic exercise
- 2/18 – Metabolic health/insulin resistance
- 2/25 – Micronutrients

The group meets Wednesdays at 5:15 P.M. through March 25th in the Fellowship Hall.

All sessions are free, everyone is welcome, and each session stands alone; participation in earlier sessions is not required.



B&BB FAQ

Wednesdays 6:00 P.M.
Joe Gettys Classroom

Are you curious about the Books & Brown Bags group and what they are up to? Here are answers to some frequently asked questions.

Q1: What book are you reading now?

A1: David Brooks's new book, *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*.

Q2: How do you choose what to read?

A2: Group members share ideas, discuss the options, and decide by consensus which book to tackle.

Q3: Do I have to wait for a new book to start before I join?

A3: Absolutely not—you are welcome to drop in any time. You may, of course, want to read some of the book being discussed before you come, so you have context for the conversation.

Q4: Will I fit in?

A4: B&BB is a gathering of diverse individuals with a variety of viewpoints to consider. It is safe space to discuss tough questions and challenging topics. Your unique voice will *definitely* be welcome!

2026 Souper Bowl of Caring

Submitted by Laine Horowitz, Mission & Outreach Co-Chair



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." *(from Matthew 25:35)*

"Are you ready for some football?" *(from every sports announcer in America)*

How on earth are these two ideas possibly connected?!?

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th, Westminster is once again joining forces with the non-profit organization "Tackle Hunger" to raise money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our funds will go to the Greenwood Soup Kitchen, feeding the hungry right here in our own community.

Why are we participating?

The (USDA) defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods or uncertain ability to acquire these foods in socially acceptable ways.

- Greenwood County has an overall food insecurity rate of 13.8 %
- Greenwood County has a child food insecurity rate of 21.8%. That is one out of every 5 kids.

Households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) comprise of households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living.

- Greenwood has an overall ALICE rate of 36.3%. That accounts for over one in every three households in our county

The food environment index combines two measures of food access: the percentage of the population that is low-income and has low access to a grocery store, and the percentage of the population that did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year (food insecurity). The index ranges from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights the two measures.

- Greenwood has a food environment index of 8.4. Out of 10.

All of the money raised goes straight to the Greenwood County Food Pantry, which has combined with the Soup Kitchen. Our goal is to break \$1,200, and if our track record is any indication, ***we can do it!***

- In 2022, we gave \$279 to this cause.
- In 2023, we raised our game to donate \$703 to the Greenwood Soup Kitchen
- In 2024, we collected over \$900
- In 2025, a record-breaking \$1,019!

It's time to bring out our fantastic football field and dust off the old soup pot that your generosity will fill. Look for more exciting details to come in bulletins.

Who Was Saint Valentine?

On February 14th every year, most of us celebrate love in some form or fashion. Usually the emphasis is on romantic love. If you're lucky, chocolate will be involved! So what does Valentine's Day have to do with *church*?

The origin of this holiday traces back to *Saint Valentine*, a real Roman priest who lived and died in Rome, Italy back in the 3rd century. While there are many competing legends for how Valentine came to be elevated to sainthood, they all include stories of how he followed Jesus by demonstrating love for the people around him.



Following Jesus requires us to show love not just to our romantic partners, but to *everyone* we encounter.

This Valentine's Day, join our kids in Sunday School in learning by heart some of the many Bible verses that mention love. (*Love* is mentioned up to 800 times in the Bible, depending on which translation you use—one of the most frequently used words in The Word.)

- ♥ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."
John 13:34
- ♥ "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13
- ♥ "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God" *1 John 4:7a*
- ♥ "We love because he first loved us."
1 John 4:19



What is Trinity Presbytery and Why Should I Care?

Excerpted from the PC(USA) Book of Order

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is governed by councils composed of presbyters elected by the people. These councils are called the session, the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly. All councils of the church are united by the nature of the church and share with one another responsibilities, rights, and powers as provided in this Constitution.

The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain [geographical] district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district.

The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church, the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history and the six Great Ends of the Church.

The presbytery shall hold stated meetings at least twice each year, shall meet at the direction of synod, and may call special meetings in accordance with its own rules.

Westminster is part of Trinity Presbytery, based in Columbia. Trinity is part of the South Atlantic Synod. Trinity Presbytery has four stated meetings each year. Our Session sends one elected Commissioner who can vote; all church members are welcome to attend and observe presbytery meetings.

What is *Shrove Tuesday*?

From Britannica Online

Shrove Tuesday is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday (see below), the beginning of Lent in Western churches. *Shrove*, derived from *shrive*, refers to the confession of sins before Lent, a usual practice in Europe in the Middle Ages.

Although the day is sometimes still used for self-examination and introspection, Shrove Tuesday eventually acquired the character of a carnival or festival in many places and is often celebrated with parades; e.g., Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") in New Orleans, LA.

As the final day before the austerity of the Lenten fast, Shrove Tuesday also has many customs pertaining to food. Pancakes are traditional in a number of European countries because eggs, sugar, and fat, commonly forbidden during the Lenten fast, are used up so they will not go to waste. See page 11 for your invitation to a Shrove Tuesday feast!

What is *Ash Wednesday*?



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent. This transformational season moves us from sin to salvation, as we hear the epic stories of our faith and contemplate our place in them.

The sign we receive on Ash Wednesday, ashes in the shape of a cross, is a reminder of both our mortality and our salvation. We come to this service to confess, perhaps even to claim our emptiness, and to be filled again, created again, by the life renewing Spirit of God, made known to us in the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus.

Plan to participate in our Ash Wednesday worship on February 18th at 6:00 P.M.

What is *Lent*?

Lent is a season of 40 days, beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 18th this year) and ending on the Thursday (April 2nd) before Good Friday. Just as Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ, Lent is a season of waiting and preparing for the new life we have come to know in Christ, a life of intimate connection with God and neighbor, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Biblically, 40 is a number that signifies transformation. Through prayer and devotional practices, we hope to grow through these 40 days. Plan to join us at Westminster as we begin the Lenten Season together with our Ash Wednesday service on February 18th (*see below*).

Did you do the math? Why are there *more* than 40 days between those two dates? Because each Sunday is a little Easter!

Count all the days except the Sundays, and you should come up with 40. Many people commit to a discipline during the 40 days of Lent, like the discipline of doing a small kindness every day, or the discipline of dedicating a period of time each day to prayer, or the discipline of giving up something that may stand in the way of your commitment to loving God and neighbor, like television or chocolate.

What will you do in these 40 days to open yourself up to the way that God is shaping you for a resurrected life? These days ahead of Lent are a good time to listen and discern your Lenten practice.



Pass the Pancakes, Please!

From The Rev, Dr, Brad Christie, interim pastor at 1st Presbyterian-Greenwood

Greetings, friends and partners in the gospel! You are cordially invited to join with First Presbyterian and our “sister” PC(USA) churches in greater Greenwood as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with the



traditional pancake supper on Feb 17th.

We are hosting this tasty event at 5:30 in Alexander Hall on our campus at 108 East Cambridge

Avenue. Enjoy all the pancakes (and fixin's!) you care to eat for only \$5.00 per person. In addition to clearing out the pantry ahead of Lent, we will collect protein items for the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Reserve your spot by contacting your church office before Monday, February 16th.

Looking Ahead to Lent

Mark your Spring calendar now for these significant Lenten season opportunities:

- † **Ash Wednesday worship**—in the WPC Sanctuary on February 18th at 6:00 P.M. or streamed online.
- † **Community Lenten Luncheons:**
 - February 25 – Immanuel Lutheran
 - March 4 – First Presbyterian Church
 - March 11 – St. Mark UMC
 - March 18 – First Baptist Church
 - March 25 – Main Street UMC
 - April 1 – Morris Chapel

See page 22 for luncheon details.



The Gift of Flowers

Submitted by Beth Hammond

A beautiful part of our Sunday worship is to see fresh flowers at the front of our church. Please consider providing flowers occasionally for our service. These can be in honor of someone, in memory of someone, celebrating a special occasion, or “just because.”



There is a sign-up sheet on the wall across from the church office. You can order the flowers through Charleston for a cost of \$75. The flowers will be arranged and delivered by the Floral Case. If you wish, you can purchase fresh flowers or a plant and arrange them yourself. Just let Charleston know your choice. Thanks!

What is Our Angel Fund?

The Nurture & Christian Education team has established a new Angel Fund. It allows folks to make donations to be used later for specific requests approved by session. Examples include helping:



- A family that lost their home due to a fire
- Raise funds for a playground swing set
- Award a special gift to honor a long-time servant leader
- Support students going to the college conference at Montreat
- Sponsor children of the church to attend summer camp at Camp Fellowship

Our Sunday Sustenance offering on Sunday, February 15 will go into the Angel Fund, so be sure to stay for lunch and make a contribution. Write checks to Westminster with Angel Fund in the memo line.

Lenten Chair Yoga: Creating Space for the Spirit

This free one-hour chair yoga class is offered as a gentle Lenten practice of rest, reflection, and renewal. All are welcome—come dressed as you are. No yoga experience, special clothing, or equipment is needed.

Using simple movements with a chair as our base, we will explore gentle stretches to open the body, mindful breathing to create space, and supported yoga shapes that invite ease and surrender. Each practice is designed to help quiet the mind, soften the body, and make room for the Holy Spirit to move and flow within us.

This class offers a peaceful way to pause during the Lenten season, reconnect with breath and body, and open ourselves to God's presence.

The series meets on Mondays at 5:15 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall throughout Lent:

- February 23, 2026
- March 2, 2026
- March 9, 2026
- March 16, 2026
- March 23, 2026
- March 30, 2026



The instructor is Lisa Wiecki, 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher specializing in Restorative Yoga. She is a librarian at Lander University and holds degrees from Emerson College and Simmons College. Lisa enjoys connecting with others through yoga, with a special love for meditation, somatic movement, yoga *nidra*, and creative sequencing. Her intention is to help individuals move and breathe with ease so they can release stress, clear the mind, and feel more at home in their bodies.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Please Help Update Our WPC Online Directory!

You can now access the Westminster church directory online—and you are invited to enrich and update your listing any time. Here's the link:

<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>

You can also download the app from the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

Note that this online directory is available to Westminster's congregation *only*. We are serious about protecting your privacy





Where is God Calling *You* to Serve?

When it comes to being part of God's chosen family, Sunday morning worship is just the tip of the iceberg. Listen closely—is God calling you to engage more deeply in WPC's Mission and Vision?

One way to do this is to serve as part of a ministry team. These groups transform Westminster's mission and vision into action! And that means that *everyone* needs to lend a hand, sharing their unique gifts.

Each ministry team is led by a Chair, who is an Elder serving on the Session. Which one of these teams might benefit from *your* energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

- Worship & Music: Luke Christie
- Congregational Care & Fellowship: Rob Graves
- Nurture & Christian Education: Ginny Cartee
- Mission & Outreach: Laine Horowitz and Richard Wilson
- Business Affairs: Bill Kimler

If you aren't sure what each team does, reach out to the chair. Or better yet, drop in on a ministry team meeting. They are all listed in the Westminster Happenings calendar. Note that teams meet only six times a year, and meetings are generally pretty short.

Don't like meetings? No worries! You can be a volunteer who helps with the doing, not the planning. Just let any Chair(s) know of your interests, and they'll do the rest!

Ministry Team? WIIFM?

In the business world, every wise leader knows that you have to address the WIIFM question if you want someone to take action: "What's In It For Me?"

So—above and beyond the blessing that comes simply from being obedient in following Jesus—serving on a ministry team can enrich your life in a number of meaningful ways:

- Teamwork can be a lot of fun! Part of enjoying God is enjoying time spent with other beloved children in God's family.
- Sharing mission tasks by serving on a team builds relationships with others that last far beyond the project.
- Work is worship—you glorify God through your service.
- By bringing your prayerful discernment to the table, you have more input into the plans and projects we undertake.
- When you are participating in church initiatives, you have a front-row seat to see and experience the impact that Westminster has for our own family and for our community.
- God intends for every individual to have a purpose in life. Volunteer work with your church is often deeply fulfilling and serves as a source of personal spiritual growth.

God has equipped you with many gifts and talents, and the Body of Christ is stronger when you offer them in volunteer service. Consider your WIIFM and prayerfully decide how you will use them to benefit yourself *and* the church.



In Case of Emergency...

Your Pastor and your Session want our Westminster home to be a safe environment for everyone at all times. Toward that end, an Emergency & Disaster Preparedness team was formed several years ago.

The team successfully raised money to purchase two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) and first aid kits. They developed rudimentary emergency response procedures that are available in the pews. And they began developing some of the many safety and emergency preparedness policies and procedures that would be beneficial to have in place.

As sometimes happens, though, this good work was shelved as other priorities popped up. This new year seems like a great time to revive this team—a little CPR, if you will (Committee Participation Resuscitation?). If you are interested being part of this effort, please contact Steve Kuhl at skuhl@greenwood.net. Also, if you have had or are interested in receiving First Aid/CPR training, please let us know. You could save a life!



Kitchen Upgrades Made Possible by Generous Givers

Submitted by Bill Kimler

I would like to share one of my earliest memories of Westminster Presbyterian. I remember the Sunday service in which I was accepted as a member of this wonderful Church family. It was a beautiful yet odd experience for someone who had been raised in a different Christian tradition.

It also happened to be a Sustenance Sunday, and I was a big fan of this tradition where you got to be fed a delicious meal right when the lunch pangs started to hit. But then I learned of a different tradition: New members are required to get to work and wash the dishes after the large group meal.

So I rolled up my sleeves and got to work. A few months later, I realized that tradition began and ended with me for some reason, which I still don't fully understand to this day. But that's not the point!

This is the point: As I stood over that sink hand washing all of the bowls, plates, silverware, etc. I looked down and wondered, "Why aren't we using this dishwasher that's right here?" As a good Christian soldier, I just followed my marching orders and didn't ask any questions.



Fast forward to today—thanks to the generosity of a donor, we have a brand-new dishwasher sitting wrapped next to the kitchen and awaiting installation, which should commence shortly. We've also been blessed with another contribution aimed toward replacing the cabinets in the kitchen, so as soon as we've settled on a contractor to commence the work, we'll have a nice "facelift" to our well-used kitchen space! I want to express my gratitude to Richard Whiting who is leading the coordination of these activities.



Elder Class of 2026 Installed

As part of worship on Sunday, January 19, 2020, Westminster installed two highly experienced Ruling Elders as our Class of 2028. Welcomed to this leadership role are (*below*) Rob Graves and Ginny Cartee. Rob is starting his second term as chair of the Congregational Care & Fellowship ministry team. Ginny is taking up leadership for the Nurture & Christian Education ministry team. We are deeply grateful for their willingness to serve.



According to the PC(USA) *Book of Order*:

“Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. ... Ordination to the ministry of deacon, ruling elder, or minister of the Word and Sacrament (also called teaching elder) is unique to that order of ministry.

“As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God’s Spirit and governance of God’s people. Accordingly, congregations should elect

persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit.

“Ruling elders are so named not because they ‘lord it over’ the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. ...”

Westminster Blessed with Many “Esthers”

Submitted by Bill Kimler

I recall the sermon given by guest preacher, Rev. Pamela Morton, last year. In it, she repeated the phrase, “You were built for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). We got to experience this first-hand during the weekend of the big ice and sleet storm that necessitated keeping people in the safety of their houses on Sunday morning. However, the ministry team of Westminster Presbyterian was built for such a time as that, and I was able to witness first-hand the collaboration and creativity that went behind putting the first “virtual service” together since the COVID lockdown days.

I was happy to play my part in the technological aspect (*I* was built for such a time as this). I was enthralled with Brian’s sermon in three parts from three locations (*he* was built for such a time as this). Claire came through with her musical insights and kept us organized in the proper sequence (*she* was built for such a time as this). And Luke and the worship ministry team constructed a flow that made for a beautiful respite from the “impending doom” of the weather event (*they* were built for such a time as this). We had a large turnout online, and the team appreciates the positive feedback we received. As much fun as that was, I know we all look forward to being back together in person!



We're Workin' on the Kirkin' for 2026!

Submitted by Gloria Christie



WPC's inaugural Kirkin' O' the Tartans service was so well received, we plan to make it an annual tradition! As you may know, the celebratory supplies for our 2025 Kirkin' were borrowed from First Presbyterian. But now you have an opportunity to help make Westminster's Kirkin' reflect our own church family.

This year's service will be on Sunday, September 20th, and while that may seem far away right now, it is not too early to start thinking about ways in which you might be a part of this year's celebration. Please prayerfully consider how you might be part of the fun through volunteering your time or purchasing some or all of the items needed to fully represent your (or another) family's tartan.

Supplies and support needed: *(costs are close estimates)*

- 1 flagpole kit (includes pole, topper, and stand): \$120
- Tartan fabric for 1 flag: \$75-100
- 1 flag tassel: \$15
- Complete tartan flag kit: \$210
- Boutonniere supplies: \$15
- Volunteers to sew flags (simple seams)



To pledge your support for Kirkin' please fill out the **WPC Kirkin' Support Form** at 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 or 864-379-5034.

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.



December 2025

	December Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$28,639	\$20, 295	\$292,771	\$243,536
Total Expenses	\$24,313	\$20,172	\$242,902	\$242,064
Net Gain/Loss	\$4,326		\$49,869	

For the 12 months ending December 2025, contributions exceeded budget and total program area expenses were right on budget. Note that the Total Expenses above reflect regular operational expense, not including Major Capital Expenditures, such as recent HVAC replacements. For the year, there was a deficit of \$3,297, principally as a result of Major CapEx of \$43,733.

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

Pastor's Continuing Education Report: ACPE 2026

The pastor's terms of call set aside time for the pastor to pursue continuing education. PC(USA) requires its Teaching Elders to be highly qualified educationally, and committed to life-long learning. Pastor Caroline recently participated in the Association of Partners in Christian Education (ACPE) Conference in Pittsburgh. Here is her report.



Caroline's ACPE Story

On opening night at the Association of Partners in Christian Education Conference in Pittsburgh, attendees sat at tables with folks from their geographical regions. That's how our pastor ended up sitting with Tony Larson and CeCe Armstrong, co-moderators of the 226th General Assembly (2024-2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Both Reverend Armstrong and Reverend Larson serve congregations in South Carolina.

During their tenure, moderators of the General Assembly, spend a great deal of time traveling to visit churches, presbyteries, and ministries of the PC(USA). It is an important time to listen and encourage. Caroline asked each of the co-moderators to share one thing they have been learning on their travels.

Reverend Armstrong replied that she has been impressed with how important it is to share our stories. Churches and presbyteries are doing amazing things that need to be shared. Rev. Armstrong has felt that the mission of her tenure as moderator has been to take a story from one place and carry it to another where it may take seed as encouragement or open a vision for a path forward.

Rev. Larson's learning went in a different direction. He stated that he believes it is time for the PC(USA) to talk about what is essential for a church to be *Presbyterian*. He senses that we may be too strict in our polity, which does not allow accommodations for realities on the ground, such as limited resources for small church leadership.

How wonderful that South Carolina is home to these two leaders! They are looking forward to spending more time with their congregations when their tenure concludes this summer as new moderators are elected at the 227th General Assembly in June's biennial meeting.

To learn more about our current moderators, link on over to our denomination's website: [Co-Moderators of the General Assembly | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

To learn more about the 227th General Assembly being held in Milwaukee, WI this summer, link here: [227th General Assembly \(2026\) | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

Proverbs 9:9



Including, Abiding, Enjoying, Following, and Growing

A series exploring Westminster's foundational statements and strategic intention

In 2023, our church family went through a significant discernment process to identify our core values. Today, they are more important than ever!



Justice

We “do justice” (Micah 6:8) when we embody God’s will “on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Some fight injustice by working to meet the immediate needs of “the least of these” (Matthew 25)—volunteering at Greater Greenwood United Ministry, serving at the Soup Kitchen, or donating to the Food Bank. Others direct their energy toward larger, systemic solutions, such as leading the Racial Justice League and seeking political solutions. Justice is a core principle of PC(USA).



Integrity/Honesty

We are committed to living the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—being honest with ourselves and with each other. Integrity also means *wholeness*, being unified in our commitment to and faith in God.



Inclusiveness

We know that all human beings are made in the image of God and are therefore worthy of our respect. All human beings are our neighbors, beloved by God, and therefore also to be loved by us. We celebrate the synergy that results from a diverse community coming together as one body in God’s service.



Friendship

We find joy in being together in worship, work, and fellowship, and we relish welcoming new friends into the circle. God’s love for us informs how we approach relationship with each other—caring, listening, rejoicing, grieving, supporting, living together in harmony.



Compassion

As God’s chosen and beloved people, we are called to clothe ourselves with “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” (Colossians 3:12). We are committed to being “kind and to forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgives us” (Ephesians 4:32).



Rationality

We believe in a mysterious, ultimately inexplicable God. We also recognize that this same God created us to have curiosity, to have the gift of rational thought, to have and use intellectual capabilities. Faith and reason are not incompatible—both are to be used in service to God. We proudly count educators, scientists, medical professionals, and technologists among our family of faith. We rejoice in the ways that God is revealed to us through science and research, and in the ways that each answer simply shows us the next mystery in God’s unfolding will.

Create a Village to Promote Your Mental Health

Excerpted from: <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/30/nx-s1-5628934/community-locals-connection-friendship-relationships-neighbors>



People say it takes a village to do difficult things: raise a child, sustain a community, build a barn. But we don't often talk a lot about what it takes to be a *villager*. What does it mean to not just *be* in a community, but to help create one?

Priya Parker, author of *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters*, says the key is to put yourself out there, even if it's scary. "The best way to get a seat at the table is to host the table."

Host gatherings that *you'd* like to attend. The idea is to create the community you want to be in, Parker says.

If you're not sure which activity to host, notice moments in your life when you have felt the most joy and connection, she says. Was it playing kickball with friends? Start a kickball league. Experimenting with watercolors? Invite folks over for an art night.

Don't be afraid to think outside the box, Parker says. "Honestly, the sillier the better." One of her Substack followers shared an example. Inspired by a recipe for a tomato tart, she invited six friends over for a tomato-themed dinner party, complete with red outfits and tomato-centric conversation starters.

Find a co-host. If the hullabaloo of hosting feels like too much, find a couple of folks to help take on responsibilities. Guests can share duties as well. Parker suggests assigning people fun roles throughout the event — for example, *refiller of water glasses* or *distributor of napkins*. Everyone feels involved — and you can stress a little less.

Find your "yes" friends. These are people who are reliable, whom you love being around and who are game to try something new. Team up to meet more people in your community, whether that's through joining a new sports league or hosting a small dinner party. It makes the process of building a village a shared adventure.

Become a regular. Start showing up to spaces you love, like parks, gyms or bookstores, with people who share your interests. Once you become a regular, other folks will remember you and you can make friends.

Be a good guest. When you're attending events, be a considerate, kind guest. Whether you're at a poetry reading or a friend's dinner party, take the time to be thoughtful, like checking in with the host, expressing gratitude or just being proactive about your RSVP. It'll probably get you invited back!

God means for us to live in community. Your Westminster church family is a great place to start creating your own special village. Our diverse band of believers likely includes folks who share your interests. We encourage you to consider engaging with one of Westminster's existing small groups (e.g., B&BB, Sunday study, a ministry team). Find an interest group outside of church (e.g., gatherings for poetry writers, artists, social justice advocates) via a church connection. Or start a new small group of your own, as the article suggests. You'll have a village in no time.

Let Us Pray...

"My house shall be called a house of prayer"
Matthew 21:13a



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

- Family of John Bacot
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Kathy Felder
- Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Savanah & Briar Rose
- Denise Waldrep
- Ed Watkins
- Kathy West
- Mary Anne Wilson
- Joan Wilkins
- Gail & Glenn Yonce, & Georgiana
- The Dennis family
- Our New Members
- 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
- 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):

- Greg Anderson (*Theresa*)
- Dan Blimline (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Brown (*Kuhls*)
- Judy Buck (*Lucia*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Kuhls*)
- Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Dabney Mahanes (*Denise*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Tarri McKinney (*Suzy*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- John Parks (*Sarah*)
- Heather Radas (*Joyce*)
- Lorene Waldrep (*Denise*)
- Elle Willis (*Rogers*)
- Blaire (*Doris*)
- Brian (*Laine*)
- Jodi (*Lucia & Laine*)
- Margaret (*Mary Frances*)

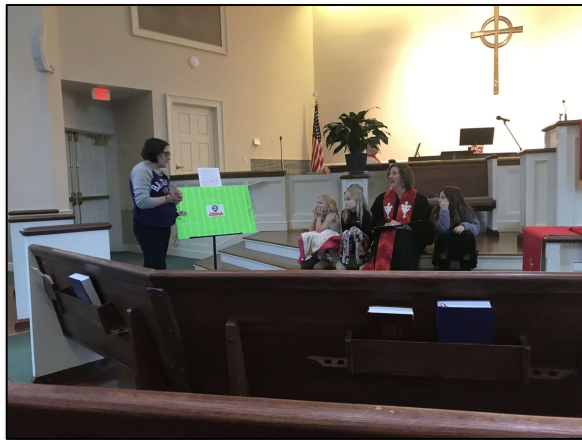


For the World

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 winter weather
- 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

And God Saw That It Was Good



Laine Horowitz explains the Souper Bowl special offering to the kids



Ginny Cartee and Rob Graves receive the laying on of hands at their installation



RECEIPT		DATE 1-05-26	No. 143923
RECEIVED FROM Westminster Presbyterian Church		\$	
133-lbs.		DOLLARS	
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR RENT <input type="checkbox"/> FOR		Food Donation	
ACCOUNT	<input type="checkbox"/> CASH	FROM	TO
PAYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK	BY A. Richardson	
BAL. DUE	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT CARD		

A bumper crop of donations for the food bank
(All photos above provided by Tim Rogers)

↓ 2025 Christmas Eve candlelight service



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE GREENWOOD COMMUNITY

Lenten Pilgrimage

February 25: Immanuel Lutheran Church
March 4: First Presbyterian Church
March 11: St. Mark United Methodist Church
March 18: First Baptist Church
March 25: Main Street United Methodist Church
April 1: Morris Chapel

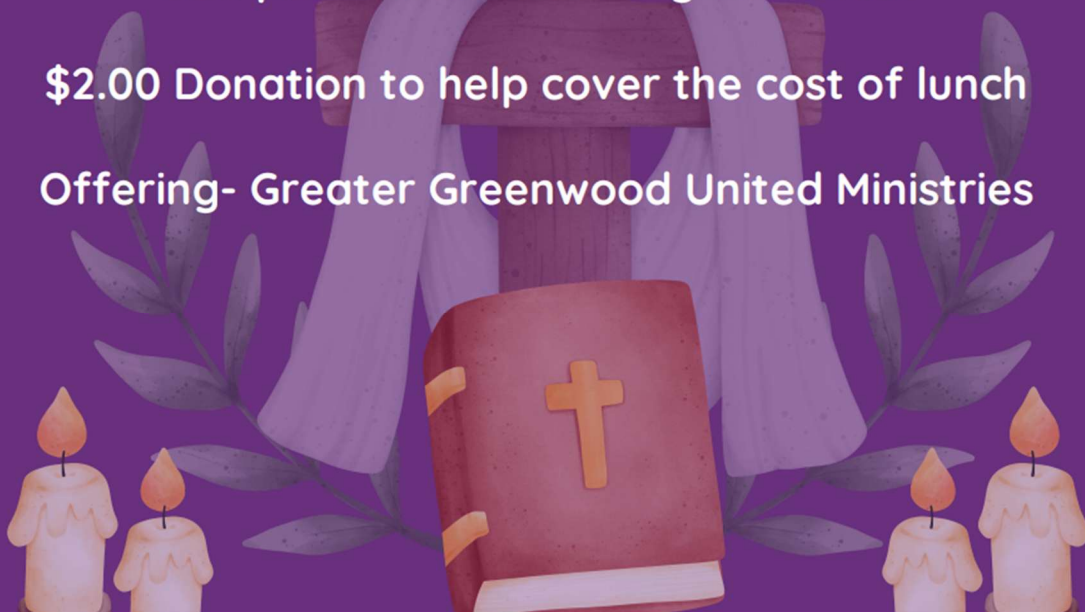
12:00 pm - First Seating for Lunch

12:30 pm - Service


1:00 pm - Second Seating for Lunch

\$2.00 Donation to help cover the cost of lunch

Offering- Greater Greenwood United Ministries



Community Connections: Camp Fellowship

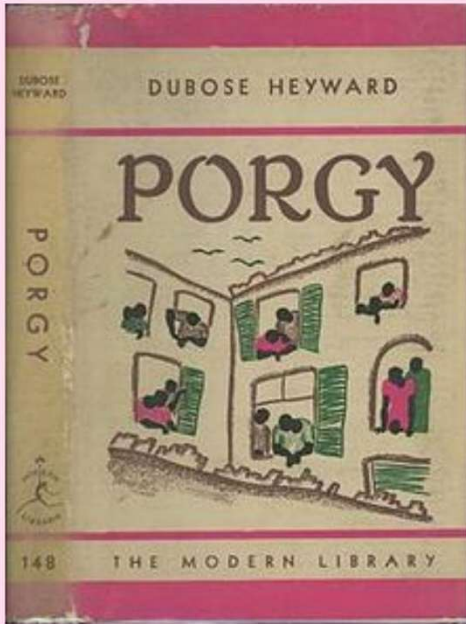



**Wednesday,
Feb. 11, 2026
10:30 am**

**Conference Center
457 Camp Fellowship Rd.
Waterloo, SC 29384**

www.campfellowship.org/tlc

In Celebration of National Black History Month, please join us to hear Dr. Kendra Hamilton, Associate Professor and Director of Southern Studies at Presbyterian College, deliver a program on the inspiration in Charleston for the novel "Porgy" written by DuBose Heyward in 1925, and later, the play "Porgy & Bess". In the 100 years since the story was written, it has greatly impacted Black Culture in SC and beyond. The title of the program is "One Hundred Years of Summertime"





fellowship
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Check out the Camp Fellowship website for a full list of their activities and opportunities for all ages throughout the year:

<https://www.campfellowship.org/home>



Live Your Dash

The Dash by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted first came the date of the birth and spoke the following date with tears. But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.

For that dash represents all the time that they spent life on Earth. And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real, and always try to understand the way other people feel.

Be less quick to anger and show appreciation more, and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before. If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile, remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

The Dash Poem by Linda Ellis
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