

A Clean Slate

In the thirty-fourth chapter of the second book of Chronicles, we read the account of the reign of King Josiah of Judah. It begins this way: "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord."



The account goes on to tell about Josiah's clean-up project, started in the eighteenth year of his reign.

When Josiah was twenty-six, he ordered the repair of the house of the Lord (2 Chronicles 34:8). Resources came from all the tribes for the repair of the Lord's house, and skilled artisans put the resources to good use.

While they were cleaning out the house of the Lord, workers found a scroll of Moses that had long been forgotten. Josiah had the scroll read before the people, so that they were guided not only to clean out and repair the *physical* house of the Lord, but the *spiritual* house of the Lord as well.

I find grounding in Josiah's story for the work Westminster is engaging in this month, this year, and in the years to come, as our BaGs (Building and Grounds Stewardship Team) plans for the cleaning, upkeep, and repair of God's house at Westminster. Through their careful planning, BaGS and our Business Affairs Ministry Team have already been able to attend to some urgent deferred maintenance. Last month, we celebrated the installation of a new roof for our sanctuary, an investment that will serve God's people gathered and sent for decades to come.

This team of good stewards is in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of projects large and small, as well as an accounting of regular maintenance in preparation for the gathering of resources and skilled contractors to accomplish this repair and care for God's house at Westminster.



That brings me to our focus for the month of August. Let's call it "The Big Clean Out." Every corner of the church is being cleaned out and organized this month. Teams are showing up throughout August to get started. The project will culminate with our "Sunday of Service" on August 30, when all hands will join in to

finalize the clean-out project, gathering the unneeded things to offer to the community at a yard sale on Saturday, September 12. A Sunday of Service at our own building may seem self-serving, but we believe it is God- and neighbor-serving, as we open up more spaces for our

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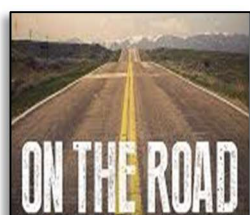
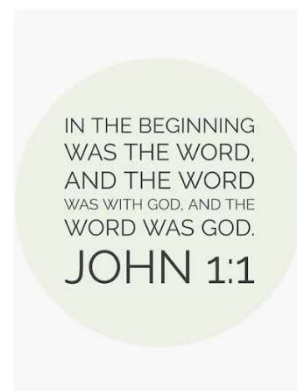
members and friends to participate in study and mission, as well as more spaces for our neighbors. This clean slate will help us imagine new possibilities!

During the same weeks we are cleaning out, we will also be discovering our sacred text, the Bible. For two weeks in August and two weeks in September, folks will be flocking to Westminster for our Bible 101 Seminar Series. Some will be rediscovering an old friend. Some will be diving into the text for the first time. Everyone will be enriched and drawn closer to the One whom John called "The Word."

It is my prayer that, like Josiah's renovation project, our work and our study will be pleasing to the Lord, and a physical and spiritual renewal for God's house.

Your pastor and friend,

 *Caroline*



-Summer Sermon Series: On the Road in August

This month, our travels have us meeting some biblical greats! Samuel, Joshua, Ruth, and Josiah, with a little time warp up to Jesus' day with our guest preacher, Doug Kauffman. Continue the journey with us, for with every step, we are growing in faith and fellowship.

August 2: Mile Marker

Communion/Food Bank Collection

† 1 Samuel 7:1-12

August 9: What She Had the Power to Do, She Did

Guest Preacher, Rev. Doug Kauffmann

† Mark 14:1-9

August 16: Fork in the Road

† Joshua 24:1-25

August 23: Traveling Companions

† Ruth 1:1-22

August 30: Cleaning Out God's House

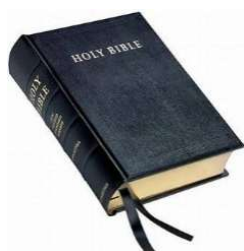
Sunday of Service

† Psalm 51:10

† 2 Chronicles 34:8-18, 29-33

Children/Youth Sunday School: Books of the Bible

Submitted by Kathy Gillespie



During August the children will continue learning about the Books of the Bible. As they learn about each section of the Bible, students will be reminded of the characters and stories they already know and be introduced to stories that are new to them. Learning will be reinforced with hands-on activities such as games, puzzles, music, and crafts. Students will also learn to put their faith into practice by participating in service projects.

*"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true."
2 Timothy 3:16*

Adult Sunday Study: Faith Matters!



Are the Word of God and our Christian beliefs still relevant in this day and age? Can they really inform the way we live and work? The Adult Sunday Study group responds to those challenges with a resounding “Yes!”

Class discussions revolve around topics “ripped from the headlines” and framed with context, biblical links, and thought-provoking questions to stimulate group discussion, thanks to materials provided by *The Wired Word*. Conversations are facilitated by a variety of volunteers, and the interactions are always lively and respectful. Recent sessions have grappled with the appropriate relationship between love of country and love of God, as well as the meaning and significance of the Christian Nationalism movement in the US.

Look for each week’s *Wired Word* reading in your Come Sunday email on Thursday, and contribute your insights, questions, and reactions during conversations in the Joe Gettys classroom Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M. any Sunday!



WOW: Come by Boat, by Car, Come as You Are!

Submitted by Beth Hammond

Worship on the Water is a summer worship experience for the Lake Greenwood community. The Sunday morning services begin at 10:00

A.M. at the Camp Fellowship pavilion and are held every week from Memorial weekend until Labor Day. The remaining summer schedule includes:

- † August 2: Dr. Bob Todd
 - † August 9: Rev. Pressley Cox and youth from the Foothills Presbytery
 - † August 16: Rev. Andy Chambers and Clinton First Presbyterian Church
 - † August 23: Erin Farry
 - † August 30: Main Street Methodist Church, Greenwood
 - † September 6: Rev. Phillip Dennis and Ware Shoals Presbyterian
-

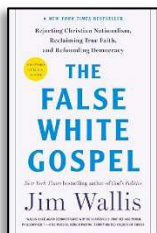
Books & Brown Bags Discussion Group

Wednesdays, August 12, 19, & 26, at 6:00 P.M.

Joe Gettys Classroom



Books & Brown Bags is a fellowship of folks, young and old, who want to talk about big and sometimes challenging topics. It is a safe place to speak your mind and heart, to agree and disagree, to admit you don't know... yet. Bring your own sack supper or snack to enjoy.



Beginning on August 12, B&BB will tackle *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy*, by Jim Wallis. Discussion will be facilitated by Robyn Agnew.

Author Wallis “calls out genuine faith—specifically the ‘Christian’ in White Christian Nationalism—inviting all who can be persuaded to reject and help dismantle a false gospel that propagates white supremacy and autocracy. ... Wallis turns our attention to six iconic texts at the heart of what genuine biblical faith means and what Jesus, in the gospels, has called us to do. It is time to ask anew: do we believe these teachings or not?”

Westminster Happenings

Sunday August 2	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
	Mile Marker Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Remember always that “Till now the Lord has helped us.”
	Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting Gather in the Choir Room immediately following worship. Plan for the wonderful ways Westminster will be worshipping.
Monday August 3	<i>Note: No Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom</i>
	BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday August 5	<i>Note: No Books & Brown Bags Study Group meeting</i>
Thursday August 6	Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Meeting Congregate at 6:00 P.M. in the Choir Room. Participate in setting our course for engaging with our community.
Saturday August 8	Young Adult Fellowship (<i>see page 8</i>) Congregate at 11:00 A.M. (<i>location varies</i>). Engage in Bible study, followed by a social outing.
Sunday August 9	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
	What She Had the Power to Do, She Did Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Welcome guest preacher, Rev. Doug Kauffmann (<i>see page 7</i>).
Monday August 10	<i>Note: No Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom</i>
	BEMA Bible Discussion Group Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Tuesday August 11	Business Affairs Ministry Team Meeting Meet in the Parlor at 6:00 P.M. Come see how church business works behind the scenes.
	Congregational Care & Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting Congregate at 7:00 P.M. in the Choir Room. Bring your ideas for connecting, sharing, and celebrating.
Wednesday August 12	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Begin our study of <i>The False White Gospel</i> , by Jim Wallis (<i>see page 3</i>).
	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
Sunday August 16	Fork in the Road Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Choose for you and your house to follow the Lord.
	Dinner Church: Be the Light Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 P.M. (<i>see page 7</i>). Participate in a different worship experience—and bring your neighbors!
Monday August 17	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 August 19	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Dig deeper into <i>The False White Gospel</i> , by Jim Wallis.
Thursday August 20	PFLAG Meeting Connect in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Find support with fellow members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies.
Saturday August 22	Trinty Presbytery Stated Meeting Come to Long Cane Presbyterian Church in Abbeville at 9:00 A.M. Listen, learn, and participate in the governance of our Presbytery.

Westminster Happenings, *continued*

Sunday August 23	Sunday School Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Joe Gettys Classroom. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing. Traveling Companions Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Share your journey with someone, so the road is smoother for you both. Young Adult Fellowship Gather immediately after worship (<i>location varies</i>). Engage in Bible study, followed by a social outing. Bible 101 Seminar: Introduction to the Bible (<i>see page 8</i>) Bring your Bible and your curiosity to the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 P.M. Discover Bible basics as presented by Brian Purcell.
Monday August 24	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 August 26	Books & Brown Bags Study Group Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Lend your voice to the discussion of <i>The False White Gospel</i>.
Sunday August 30	Special Sunday of Service (<i>see page 9</i>) Check in and enjoy coffee & doughnuts in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 A.M. Celebrate opening worship at 10:00 A.M. Message: Cleaning Out God's House Begin work throughout the facility at 10:15 A.M. Check out in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 P.M. Bible 101 Seminar: Literary Genres and Devices Bring your Bible and your curiosity to the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 P.M. Let Rev. Brad Christie help you view the Bible as a library of literature.
Monday August 31	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.

Welcome Doug Kauffmann Back to the Westminster Pulpit

Rev. Kauffmann, provided these autobiographical notes by way of introduction to those at Westminster who don't already know him. Most days, you can find him enjoying coffee and friends at Aromas Village Coffee.

Doug Kauffmann attended some fun schools in his life, including the American High School in London, England; Duke University in North Carolina; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.



It was at Southern Seminary that he met and fell in love with Sally Hill, who was from Greenwood, SC. Sally graduated with a Music and Education degree from Lander University in 1974 and attended Southern Seminary in 1975 to earn a Religious Education degree. Doug graduated from college in 1975 with a BA degree in History and attended Southern Seminary to earn a Master's of Divinity degree.



Doug and Sally married in 1976 in Greenwood, SC and began a 48-year partnership in marriage and ministry. They have two daughters, Anna Kauffmann and Christina Isenhower, two sons-in-law, Brent Germain and Matt Isenhower, and two grandsons, Luke Germain and Jacob Isenhower.

Doug and Sally served together in many ministry opportunities, the most beloved of which was their twenty years at Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries. They retired from Connie Maxwell in 2016. Soon after, Sally began a joyful period of volunteer ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church, particularly helping in the music ministry. Doug has also enjoyed times of teaching Sunday School at Westminster and preaching in the Worship on the Water ministry at Camp Fellowship.

Sally died from a severe stroke on June 12, 2024, and crossed the threshold from earthly to heavenly life. On August 9, Doug is honored to preach at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where Sally had so much joy ministering with friends for several years.

“Be the Light” at Dinner Church

Sunday, August 16

Fellowship Hall at 5:00 P.M.

If you haven't yet discovered the meaning and message of Westminster's Dinner Church, Sunday, August 16th is your last chance for this year. This service rounds out this year's theme of *light*. So far, we've considered how to “Live in the Light” and how to “Follow the Light.” This month offers a new challenge: what does it mean to “Be the Light”?

Building toward the time of worship, you'll have the option to make sandwiches for the Greenwood Soup Kitchen (and your own snack supper) or to engage in other creative mission activities. No Westminster worship event is complete without some singing! And instead of a sermon, our time with the scriptures will include individual and small-group time to read, reflect, and respond to God's Word.

The dress is casual, the atmosphere is energized, and the spiritual growth is undeniable. You don't want to miss out. And consider bringing a friend who needs a new perspective on what church is all about.

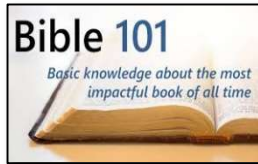


Bible 101 is Here!

Submitted by Gloria Christie

**Sundays August 23 & 30, September 13 & 20
Fellowship Hall at 4:00 P.M.**

The Bible 101 four-part lecture series begins this month on August 23rd. This is *not* a typical Bible study, but rather an opportunity to learn about the Bible and get answers to your questions about authors,



structure, order, translations, and much more. A special thanks to all who submitted questions!

Whether you are a seasoned Bible reader or brand new to the Bible, there will be things to learn. Sessions are Sunday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

While there may be some overlap, each session is designed to stand alone and will include Q & A time. General topics and instructors are:

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

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

*The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes, that's the book for me.
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E!*



Young Adult Fellowship

Submitted by Luke Christie

**Second Saturdays at 11:00 A.M.
Fourth Sundays at 11:15 A.M.**

Westminster's Young Adult Fellowship is a small group for adults who are young—or young at heart!

While we define “young” very loosely, most of the group’s members are in their twenties and thirties, following Jesus as we navigate life in the messy middle between high school and middle age. We have varied faith backgrounds and personal interests, but share a desire to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, plus a love of good food and conversation.

Currently, we get together twice per month. On second Saturdays at 11:00 A.M., we gather for Bible study led by Brian and Kim Purcell, followed by a social outing that usually includes lunch. Bible study and fellowship continue on fourth Sundays immediately after worship.



We would love to see your face added to these around our table!

Exactly where we meet and what’s on the agenda vary from month to month, so if you are interested in joining us, reach out to Luke Christie (christie.luked@gmail.com).

Sunday of Service—The Big Clean Out

Submitted by Richard Whiting, BaGS Team Lead



Onward and upward!

Yes, that can—and does—apply to our wonderful Westminster church campus.

During the month of August, we will assemble teams to assess the many “things” we have in closets, in classrooms, in storage rooms with the intent being to clean up and clean out.

Our hope is that every member will join in this effort as we work toward a September 12 yard sale. You know the saying about many hands making for light work, and that is exactly what we need. We will have signup sheets in the narthex (August 16 and 23) for members and friends to join in this project. We will determine what is trash and what can become someone else’s treasure.

Why are we doing this?

Not only because there always comes a time to declutter and reorganize, but also—mainly, really—because this gives us an opportunity to take a good look at the spaces in our church and determine how they can be repurposed for now and for the future in service not only to members, but also to the community as a whole.

Please prayerfully consider how you can be a helping hand leading up to and on our church Sunday of Service workday, which is August 30. That is when we will set up and organize for the yard sale, which will be in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. September 12.

Also, members and friends are encouraged to bring their own yard sale items between September 8 and 10. Please don’t bring items before then or the day of the yard sale. Your items, along with the church items going in the sale, will help build a fund that will be applied to building improvements your BaGS (Building and Grounds Stewardship) team is working on.

There will be coffee and donuts served August 30, along with a short prayer time led by Caroline, and then the work begins. We hope to start about 9:30 A.M. and end by 1:00 P.M. All work that day will be conducted indoors, so don’t fret. We won’t put you out in the heat.



This is an opportunity for us to enjoy fellowship with a great purpose, so please plan to find where you can put your time and talents to use by visiting the signup in the Narthex in the coming weeks.

If you have specific questions, please seek out Richard Whiting (richardswighting@gmail.com or 864-992-3222) or Caroline (cvdennis.wpcgwd@gmail.com or 317-777-1487).

Emerald Band with Tacos in Hand

Submitted by Karl Schwarzmann, M&O Ministry Team Member

What do you get with 10 pounds of meat (5 pounds of beef and 5 pounds of chicken), 3 heads of lettuce, 7 family-size bags of Doritos, a basket full of fresh cherry tomatoes, a 5-pound bag of shredded cheese, 60 bottles of Gatorade, popsicles, plenty of toppings, and 5 eager Presbyterian volunteers?

You get Walking Tacos for more than 60 Emerald High School Band members and volunteers!

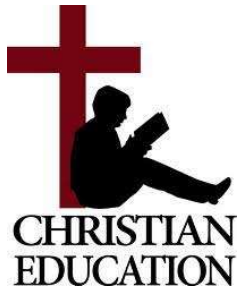
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our second annual taco dinner such a success:

- 🍌 Kathy Gilispie, Mary Francis Thomson, and Ginny Cartee – for their financial donations that purchased the meat
- 🍌 An anonymous donor – for additional financial support
- 🍌 Tracey and Doug Jackson – for donating their fresh, homegrown cherry tomatoes
- 🍌 Wendy Whiting, Shelly Botchie, Pastor Caroline Dennis, Ginny Cartee, and Karl Schwarzmann – for cooking the meat, preparing the food, delivering it, and serving the meal

And last, but certainly not least, thank you to all the members and friends of our church for your prayers and support for both the meal and the Emerald High School Band students.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and look forward to doing it again next year. Thank you to everyone who made this ministry possible! ❤️ 🍌 🎵





Nurture & Christian Education Update

Submitted by Ginny Cartee, Ministry Team Chair

Moving forward is not an easy task. Jesus sent the Twelve out two-by-two to share the work, support each other, and tell the good news. In some ways the N&CE Ministry Team is attempting to do exactly what Jesus asked the Twelve to do.

Using Vacation Bible Camp as our starting place, our team is moving through the unsettled waters of building from our strong foundation to start something new. We are getting to know each other as we invite other members of this congregation to join us in this creative exercise. We have started planning ways to reach out and meet the needs of the congregation using our resources both in-person and online.

During this semester, scheduled meetings for our children and youth will provide opportunities for them to meet in fellowship during Parents' Night Out and after Sunday Sustenance for "Aim for Advent" activities.

Our Young Adult team has scheduled meetings for study and fellowship. See Luke Christie's article on page 8 for more information.

Building on the strengths and experiences of our PW groups, the Presbyterian Women Team is looking for ways to add opportunities for study and fellowship focused on women who can't make it to daytime meetings.

Our ministry team has also made plans to support ongoing Sunday School, Books & Brown Bags, Bible 101, and BEMA as we investigate and experiment with online study groups.

We are extending this invitation to you to be a part of our team by increasing awareness, providing prayers, and sharing ideas to help us focus our energy on the needs and interests of our congregation. Please participate in the opportunities that meet your needs, encourage Children, Youth and Young Adults to think of Westminster as their "Third Place," and be ready to share your ideas in an interest survey that will be coming your way soon. It's designed to help us strengthen the work by listening to your voice.

Happy Days!

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

- ❖ 2nd – Kaitlin Burton & Luke Christie
- ❖ 8th – Aaron Hoang & Paigelynn Tucker
- ❖ 11th – Miles Nickolls
- ❖ 22nd – Amy Woodrum
- ❖ 25th – Walter Hughes



And a hearty "Happy Anniversary!" to:

- ❖ 6th – Steve & Claire Kuhl
- ❖ 13th – David & Beth Hammond
- ❖ 16th – Bill & Theresa Jacobs
- ❖ 23rd – Larry & Licia Duncan and Aaron & Dashe Hoang
- ❖ 29th – Kaye & Henry Schwarzmenn
- ❖ 30th – Marvin & Ginny Cartee

You can update your special dates by logging on to [InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com).

Stewardship Snapshot

Please note that because of newsletter publication vs. month-end close schedules, these reports are typically about six weeks behind.



June 2026

	June Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Total Income	\$20,173	\$23,007	\$180,773	\$170,338
Total Expenses	\$52,579	\$25,283	\$161,232	\$147,900
Net Gain/Loss	—\$32,406		\$19,541	

June's financial results were dominated by the replacement of the Sanctuary roof at a final cost of \$34,242 (from the Major Capital Expenditure budget line), resulting in an excess of expenses over income of \$32,406. There was a similar decrease in the operating account balance, but it remains at an adequate level. Program area expenses were well managed and slightly below budget overall.

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



Thank You for Sharing Your Gifts

Bills arrive relentlessly every month, so even when you are on the road, please remember to fulfill your pledge and make other offerings as you are able to do so. You can send your tithes and offerings anytime from anywhere using the Tithely app on our website (wpcgnwd.org). Go to the Giving page and click the Give Now button. Drop your gift in the narthex plate. Or mail your check to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2330 Cokesbury Road Greenwood, SC 29649. Thanks!

Giving as a Spiritual Discipline

From the PC(USA) Book of Order

We respond to God's grace through practices of discipleship: keeping sabbath, studying Scripture, contemplation and action, fasting and feasting, **stewardship** and self-offering. All of these practices are meant to help us attend to the presence and action of God in our lives (*excerpted from W-5.0103*).



Christian life is an **offering** of oneself to God. In the Lord's Supper, we are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ for the life of the world. As those who have been claimed and set free by His grace, we **respond with gratitude**, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods.

Every service of worship shall include an opportunity to respond to Christ's call to discipleship through self-offering. The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor. Tithes and offerings are gathered as an **act of thanksgiving to God** (*excerpted from W-3.0411*).

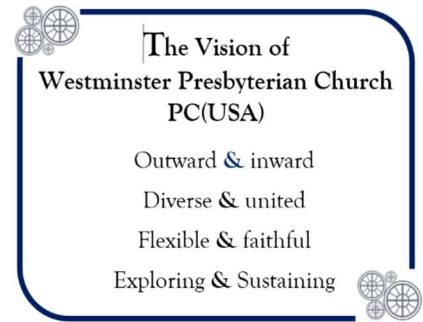


Including, Abiding, Enjoying, Following, and Growing

A series exploring Westminster's foundational statements and strategic intention

*The essence of Westminster's Vision is our commitment to **balancing** the "Both/And" diverse needs of our congregation and our community. One of those vision challenges is to be both "Exploring & Sustaining," or more formally, to be "Accessible to the un-churched and de-churched while sustaining long-time Christians in their ongoing faith journey,"*

Tim Rogers provided this summary from an Adult Sunday Study resource that offers insights into how a mature church can make engagement more appealing to younger seekers who are exploring their faith and could benefit from our support as they "enjoy God, follow Jesus, and grow disciples."



In our Adult Sunday Study recently, the class discussed an article on the "... shifting demographics and cultural trends [which] present challenges for the body of Christ, [but] also offer opportunities. Instead of seeing the graying of American congregations as a negative phenomenon, some church leaders say it is a largely unseen mission field and untapped resource."

Attached to the lesson was an article titled "Nine Changes That Will Make a Big Difference in Your Aging Church" (Source: Vanderbloemen). The following excerpts are taken from the article that can inspire churches to do some "strategic thinking" for strengthening their ministry given the changing demographics. "If you want to get younger, your church will need to..."

"Establish community vision - Get a clear vision about your community and what it will take to reach them... It's not realistic to ask people in your community to adapt to what has worked for your church in the past. You'll need to find out what will connect with the people who are currently living nearby.

Invest in youth and children's ministry - There is nothing more important in reaching younger families than providing a safe and compelling experience for their children.

Embrace diversity - Be intentional about reaching out to and welcoming people who are different from your current demographic... What is your strategy for connecting with new people who may look different from the people who have been attending?

Build intergenerational connections - Have a church-wide work day where you cancel services and invest in your community side-by-side. Set up a mentoring ministry where older couples invest in younger couples, older men with younger men, or older women with young moms.

Broaden worship styles - Find out what musical style will connect best with your people, especially the people who aren't sitting in church with you on Sunday. Offer a well-done service to connect with them.

Serve the next generation - Interview a young family about how they found a home in your church or an older couple whose faith has been renewed as they watch their children or grandchildren connect in your church in new ways."

Let Us Pray...



For Those in Our Church

We share one another's joys and concerns:

*"... if we ask anything according to His will,
He hears us."*

1 John 5:15b

- Grace Esme Autry
- Mary Corley
- Kathy Felder
- Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- The Blanchett Family
- Luan Vinson
- Ed Watkins
- Kathleen Watkins
- Joan Wilkins
- Kathy West
- Gail & Glenn Yonce,
& Georgiana
- The Dennis family

We pray daily for our prayer partners and their special concerns. We pray for our sister churches: New Faith, Ware Shoals, First Presbyterian, Abbeville Presbyterian, and others.

We pray for the ministries in our community, especially:

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



For Those in Our Hearts

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

- Elaine Alderman (*Kaitlin*)
- The Boltions (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Brown (*Kuhls*)
- Judy Buck (*Lucia*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jack Cauley (*Mary Anne*)
- Janice Culbertson (*Tracey*)
- Frances Garren (*Wilsons*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Tom & Laura Dozier, and
Laura's father
- Randy Kuhl (*Kuhls*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Rick McGee (*Kuhls*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Elle Willis (*Rogers*)
- Bill Stonesifer (*Tracey*)
- Tamika Williams
- Nancy, Jean, &
Barbara (*Purcells*)
- Jodi (*Lucia, Laine*)
- Morgan (*Laine, Doris*)
- Wendell (*McInneses*)



For the World

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

- For wisdom for local, national, and world leaders at every level
- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For an end to war and violence, especially politically motivated attacks of all types
- For the safely of Christians in Nigeria, Pakistan, China, and other oppressive areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and Lebanon
- For all decisions of those in positions of power to be informed by your grace and mercy
- For those affected by natural disasters, including floods, fire, and weather dangers
- For all children, especially those who lack loving, stable homes
- For persons affected by domestic violence
- For all those oppressed by systemic poverty and structural racism

And God Saw That It Was Good



Thornwell Children's Home was blessed by a fine, feisty team of volunteers from Westminster. Their hard work helped ensure that large numbers of area children received a good lunch!



One of the many unique elements of Dinner Church is the invitation to doodle! Here are some interpretations of the theme "Follow the Light," offered by anonymous artists.



Westminster watermelon, fresh from the Garden—yum! Many thanks to Tracey and Doug Jackson, who tend the plants with deep love and vast expertise.

Music for Ministry *Fundraiser*

Greater Greenwood United Ministry

"12 Annual Music for Ministry"
Saturday, August 22, 2026
New Covenant Church
1509 Woodlawn Road
5 -7:30 p.m.

Music for Ministry Sponsorship Levels of Giving

ORCHESTRA **Over \$2500.00**

- All benefits listed PLUS customized benefits

HARMONY sponsorship includes: **\$2500.00**

- Business logo on website (GGUM and event pages)
- Business recognized throughout event by MC
- Business logo on all social media marketing
- Business name included in all PSAs
- Business logo running on screen during event
- Business logo included in "Recognizing Our Sponsors" ads post event

SOPRANO sponsorship includes: **\$1000.00**

- Business logo on all social media marketing
- Business name included in PSAs
- Business logo running on screen during event
- Business logo included in "Recognizing Our Sponsors" ads post event

ALTO sponsorship includes: **\$750.00**

- Business name included in all PSAs
- Business logo running on screen during event
- Business logo included in "Recognizing Our Sponsors" ads post event

TENOR sponsorship includes: **\$550.00**

- Business logo running on screen during event
- Business logo included in "Recognizing Our Sponsors" ads post event

BASS sponsorship includes: **\$350.00**

- Business logo included in "Recognizing Our Sponsors" ads post event

All proceeds from the event will be used through the programs and services of Greater Greenwood United Ministry to offer a hand up to those in life or medical crisis.



For more information, contact
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