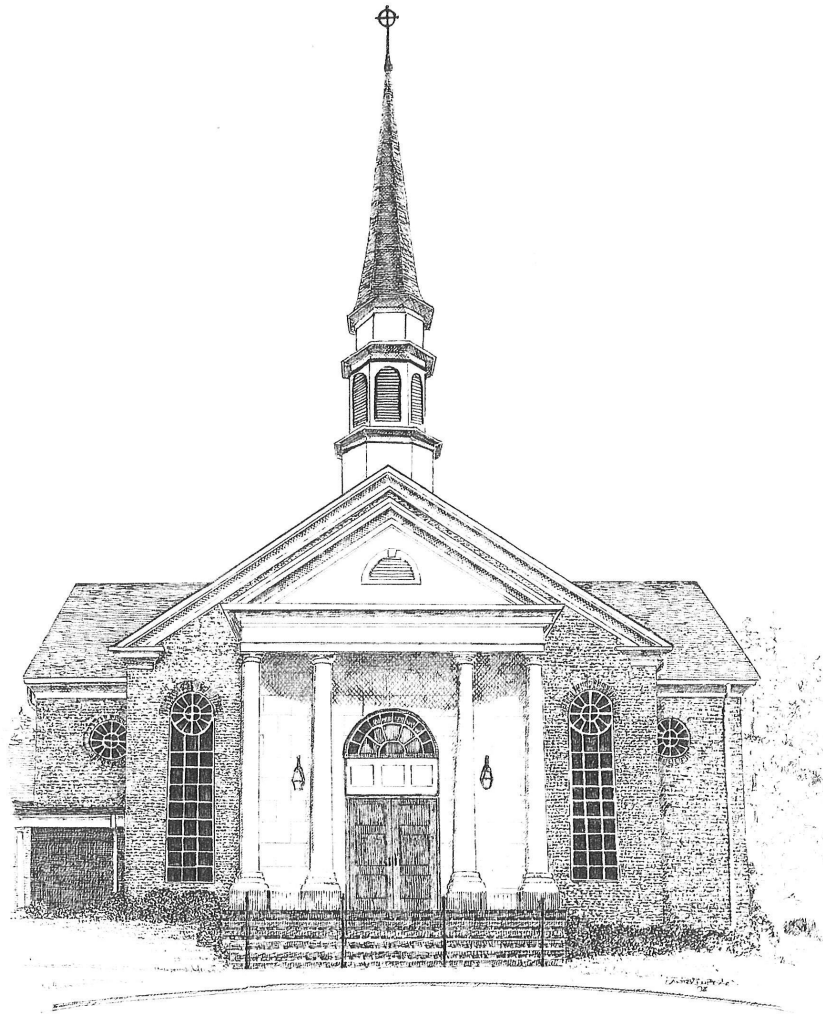




Westminster Presbyterian Church

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 the nursery 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**

August 16, 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

Suzy Holloway

Minute for Ministry

Richard Whiting

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 78

My people, hear my teaching;

listen to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth with a parable;

I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their descendants;

we will tell the next generation

the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,

God's power, and the wonders the Lord has done.

God decreed statutes for Jacob

and established the law in Israel,

which the Lord commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,

so the next generation would know them,

even the children yet to be born,

and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God

and would not forget the deeds of the Lord

but would keep the Lord's commands.

***Hymn #1**

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

NICAEA

1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Descant

4 Ho - - - ly,

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Much of the imagery of this hymn comes from Revelation 4:2–11, which its author, an Anglican bishop, knew as a reading appointed for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written specifically for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme by strong dependence on the D-major triad.

TEXT: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt.;

Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea; Spanish trans. Juan B. Cabrera

MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861; desc. David McKinley Williams, 1948

Korean Trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea

Music Desc. © 1948, ren. H. W. Gray Co., Inc. (a div. of Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.)

NICAEA

11.12.12.10

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,

on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.

per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

SPANISH

- 1 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Señor omnipotente,
siempre el labio mío loores te dará.
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Te adoro reverente,
Dios en tres personas, bendita Trinidad.
- 2 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La inmensa muchedumbre
de ángeles que cumplen tu santa voluntad,
ante ti se postra, bañada de tu lumbre,
ante ti que has sido, que eres y serás.
- 3 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! Por más que estés velado
e imposible sea tu gloria contemplar,
santo tú eres sólo y nada hay a tu lado,
en poder perfecto, pureza y caridad.
- 4 ¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La gloria de tu nombre
vemos en tus obras, en cielo, tierra y mar.
¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo! La humanidad te adore,
Dios en tres personas, bendita Trinidad.

KOREAN

- 1 거룩거룩거룩 전능하신 주여
이른아침우리주를 찬송합니다
거룩거룩거룩 자비하신 주여
성삼위일체 우리주로다
- 2 거룩거룩거룩 주의보좌 앞에
모든성도 금면류관 벗어드리네
천군천사 모두주께 굴복하니
영원히 위에 계신 주로다
- 3 거룩거룩거룩 주의 빛난 영광
모든죄인 눈어두워 보지못하네
거룩하신 이가 주님밖에 뉘랴
권능과사랑 온전하셔라
- 4 거룩거룩거룩 전능하신 주여
천지만물 주의이름 찬송합니다
거룩거룩거룩 자비하신 주여
성삼위일체 우리주로다

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God who keeps covenant with us, we are grateful for your faithfulness and love, even when we are not faithful to you. All too often we give our allegiance to gods of money and power, entertainment and distraction, fad and fashion, comfort and security. We neglect to humble ourselves, to love and serve you alone, and to love our neighbors, each one lovingly made in your image. Forgive us.

We pause for personal prayer.

By the power of your Spirit, turn us once again towards you and towards our neighbors in love and service. 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 Old Testament

Joshua 24:1-25

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. **2** And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. **3** Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac, **4** and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. **5** Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst, and afterward I brought you out. **6** When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. **7** When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them, and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterward you lived in the wilderness a long time. **8** Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. **9** Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, **10** but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you, so I rescued you out of his hand. **11** When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, as well as the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I handed them over to you. **12** I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. **13** I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

14 "Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. **15** Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, **17** for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of

slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, ¹⁸ and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” ²² Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” ²³ He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Fork in the Road”

*But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
Joshua 24:15b*

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 #4**

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Based on an 18th-century German metrical version of a celebrated 5th-century Latin hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, this abbreviated 19th-century English paraphrase is sung by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is set here to the tune composed and named for the German version.

***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.

Welcoming New Members

Camilla Cathcart McDevitt
Sandy Chaney
Janis Fuller

***Hymn #612**

“We Praise You O God”

KREMSER

We Praise You, O God

612

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

TEXT: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt.

MUSIC: *Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clanck*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

KREMSE

12.11.12.11

(this tune in a lower key, 336)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

*The sanctuary flowers are given by Kathleen Watkins
in memory of her father, Sam T. White.*

Serving Today at Westminster

Organist:	Claire Kuhl
Liturgist:	Suzy Holloway
Host:	Marvin & Ginny Cartee
Sunday Study:	Tim 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
BaGS Meeting	11:15 am	Choir Room
Dinner Church	5:00 pm	Fellowship Hall

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	M-Th	
Zoom Prayer Time	Noon	Monday	Zoom
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 pm	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Books & Brown Bags	6:00 pm	Wednesday	Joe Gettys Classroom
PFLAG	6:00 pm	Thursday	Joe Gettys Classroom

Next Sunday, August 23

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys Classroom (<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
Young Adult Fellowship	11:15 am	Joe Gettys Classroom
Bible 101	4:00 pm	Fellowship Hall

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 continue its discussion of "False White Gospel" by Jim Wallace with a focus on chapters 3 and 4. Bring your brown bag supper and join our discussion.

Dinner Church: TONIGHT 5:00–6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Join us for Dinner Church this summer at Westminster! Dinner Church offers a unique worship experience centered on fellowship, service, and faith. Each evening includes opportunities to serve, share a meal and conversation, and participate in interactive worship focused on the theme of light. Enjoy meaningful connection, uplifting music, and invite a friend to join you! Dinner Church is offered in addition to Sunday morning worship. **All hands will be needed after Dinner Church to set up Fellowship Hall for Bible 101!**



It's summer cleanup and clean-out time at WPC!

Mark your calendars for August 30th! It's summer cleanup time at WPC! Join us on Sunday, August 30, from 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. as we work together to clean, organize, and declutter areas throughout the church. We'll sort items to keep and set aside usable items for a yard sale benefiting the church's building needs. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex on August 16 and 23. Volunteers are also needed to help organize and staff the yard sale. This is an indoor workday, so dress comfortably. Coffee and donuts will be provided.



Please take home any personal items you wish to keep before August 30, as remaining items may be included in the yard sale. Members and friends are invited to donate yard sale items by bringing them to the church September 8–10 (please do not bring items on the day of the sale). The yard sale will be held Saturday, September 12, from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Richard Whiting at richardswighting@gmail.com or 864-992-3222.

Angel Fund The recent ICE raid in Abbeville affected several members of our community. Westminster will use the Angel Fund to provide legal and material assistance to our neighbors. Funds for legal assistance will be paid directly to the attorneys of people attempting to remain in, or in one case return to, the US. Ann Margaret McClary (daughter of Mary Corley) is our contact person, and she reports that the families need Pampers (sizes 4 and 6), baby wipes, toilet paper, paper towels and laundry detergent. If you wish to donate financially, you can note the contribution is for the Angel Fund either on your check's memo line or by using the online dropdown menu (<https://www.wpcgnwd.org/giving>). If you want to provide the goods needed, contact David Grier (dgrier@erskine.edu; 864-378-3818) and he will deliver them either to Ms. McClary or to the individuals.



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.

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

David Grier

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.

CCLI License #2724601 and #20189191