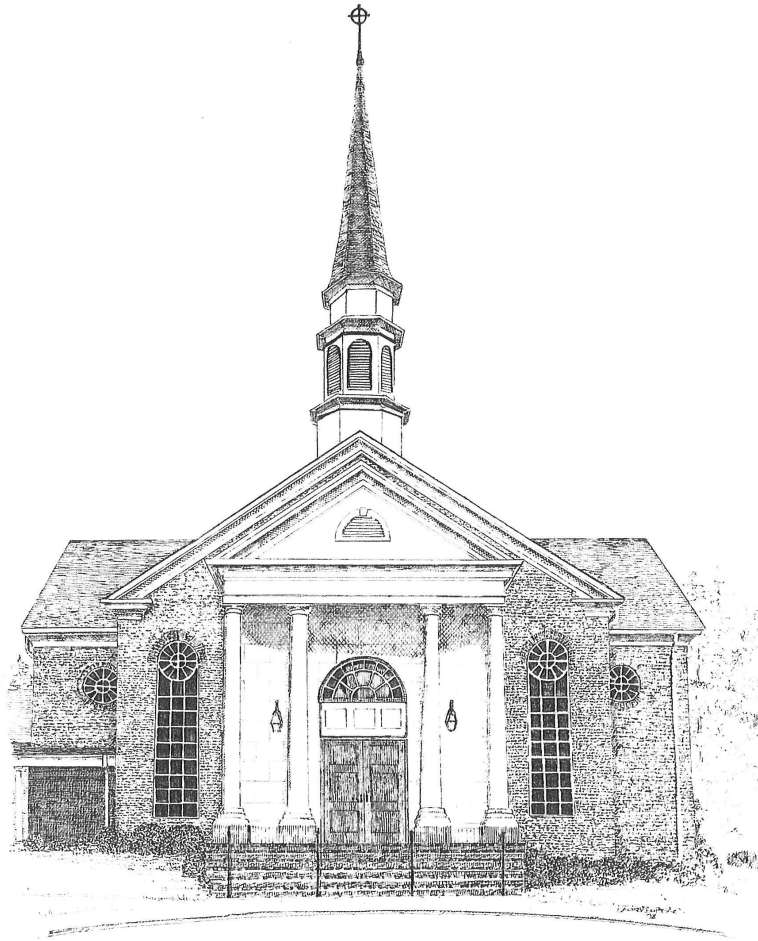


# Westminster Presbyterian Church



## 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. Westminster is a welcoming and inclusive community seeking to grow in faith and understanding and to show God's love to those among us and those around us. 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. Please avoid walking through the courtyard during worship. We ask that families sit together during worship. Please do not let any child move unaccompanied through the building.

After the "Time with All God's Children", children first grade and up (by age or development) are encouraged to remain in worship. Children in kindergarten and younger (by age or development) may depart with our caregivers and teachers for Children's Sunday School or remain with their parents for worship if they choose.

If this is your first visit to Westminster, you are welcome to accompany your child to Children's Sunday School so that you can meet our caregivers and help settle your child in. Children's worship packets are available in the narthex. As is a brochure regarding our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult protection policy.



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**A Service for the Worship of God**  
May 18, 2025

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

**Chiming the Hour**

**Prelude**

**Psalm Reading**

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made;

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Autumn Rubye Mossman

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 121

We lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let our feet be moved;

**The One who keeps us will not slumber or sleep.**

The Lord is our keeper; our shade.

The sun will not strike us by day or the moon by night.

**The Lord keeps us from all evil.**

**The Lord keeps our life.**

The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in  
from this time on and forever more.

**\*Hymn #408**

**“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”**

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

# 408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I  
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are  
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I  
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.  
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1962  
Text and Music © 1962, ren. 1990 Manna Music, Inc. (admin. ClearBox Rights)

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT  
9.11.9.11 with refrain

*Refrain*

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; and for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we know you have good plans for us. Yet we think we know better. Forgive us when we set out on our own without consulting you first for directions. Forgive us when our plans don't include you or consider the needs of our neighbors.**

*We pause for personal prayer.*

**By your gentle and persistent Spirit, turn us once again towards you and make us glad to journey ahead with you. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

#### \*Hymn #582

#### "Glory to God"

GLORY TO GOD

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. 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

Ellery DeRosa

#### Prayer of Illumination

#### Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Jeremiah 29:11-13

<sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,

#### Gospel Reading

Luke 8:4-15

<sup>4</sup> When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup> "A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup> Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup> Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

<sup>9</sup> Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but to others I speak in parables, so that

'looking they may not perceive  
and hearing they may not understand.'

<sup>11</sup> "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be

saved. <sup>13</sup> The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup> As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup> But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.

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

**Sermon**

Oliver Wren Danner

**“Good Soil: Growing into Who God Made Me to Be”**

*But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word,  
hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.*

*Luke 8:15*

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**

**Offertory**

**\*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 Thanksgiving**

**\*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.**

**Graduate Recognition**

**\*Hymn #765**

**“May the God of Hope Go With Us”**

*please sing twice*

Elder Kathy Gillespie

ARGENTINA

# May the God of Hope Go with Us 765

Song of Hope / *Canto de esperanza*

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our  
*¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en*

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us  
*cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -*

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.  
*nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.*

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;  
*O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.*

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.  
*Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.*

This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.

TEXT: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984  
MUSIC: Argentine folk melody

ARGENTINA  
11.11.11.11 with refrain

## Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

[\*All stand as they are able.]

*The sanctuary flowers this week are given by Steve & Claire Kuhl  
honor of Mental Health Awareness Month*



## Serving Today at Westminster

Piano:	Amy Fennell
Vocalist:	Laura Margaret Fennell
Liturgist:	Autumn Mossman
Host:	Marvin & Ginny Cartee
Sunday Study:	Claire Kuhl
Children's Sunday School:	Kathy Gillespie

## Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Choir 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
Graduation Reception	11:00 am	Courtyard

## This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 – 1:00	M-Th	
Prayer Time	NOON	Monday	Zoom
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 – 7:00	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Crazy Heart Meditation	6:00 pm	Tuesday	Fellowship Hall
Brown Bags and Books	6:00 – 7:30	Wednesday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Interfaith Dialogue	7:00pm	Thursday	Youth Room
Crazy Heart Meditation	10:00am	Saturday	Fellowship Hall

## Next Sunday, May 25

***Worship on the Water Kick-Off and Church Picnic at 10:30am***

***Note: No activities at the Cokesbury campus on May 25.***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **Study Opportunities at Westminster**

**Sunday Adult Study:** Claire Kuhl facilitates our study of Esther this week.

**Books and Brown Bags** gathers at 6:00 on Wednesday in the Joe Gettys Room. Participants bring a brown bag supper which they enjoy while they socialize during the first part of the evening. At 6:30, discussion of our chosen book begins. This week we are discussing chapters 7-9 of “A Wrinkle in Time”.

**Upper Zoom Prayer Room:** Please send any prayer request updates to the church office. The community gathers on Zoom for prayers Monday at noon. Prayer list and link are sent out Monday morning.

**New Online WPC Directory:** You can now access the Westminster church directory online—and you are invited to enrich and update your own family listing at any time. Here's the link: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> You can also download the app from the Apple Store and Google Play Store. Not a fan of technology? No worries! Our resident tech wizards will be on hand during the graduation reception to answer your questions. They are happy to help you!

**Register TODAY for VBS!** Westminster's “Stories from the Faith Family Tree” will be on Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 6 from 9:30-12:00 for children ages K4 – fifth grade. Each day, children share in a cooperative craft, hear a Bible story, play games and participate in mission activities. Middle-schoolers through adult volunteer leaders are needed! Place your volunteer commitment form in the offering plate today! Participant registration form is on the front page of our website at [www.wpcgwd.org](http://www.wpcgwd.org).

**You're Invited to the Worship on the Water Kick Off!** All Westminster members and friends are invited to the inaugural WOW service on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Following worship, you are encouraged to stay for a festive picnic. Come by boat, come by car, come as you are!



**End of Life Series Concludes on May 29<sup>th</sup>:** For this final session of our end-of-life series, we are welcoming Aeriell Bowick and Christy Stroud from the Upper Savannah Council of Governments (USCOG). They are well-versed in the stressors of caregiving and in some of the ways that caregivers can find relief. Aeriell will be discussing the USCOG Family Caregiver Respite Program and the benefits of the temporary breaks it provides. Christy's presentation focuses on Traditional Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage plans. She will also touch on scams and fraudsters who prey on the elder population. Join us for this final session on May 29 at 5:30pm, doors open at 5:00 pm, in Fellowship Hall.



We congratulate our 2025 Westminster Family Graduates  
and pray God's blessing upon them.

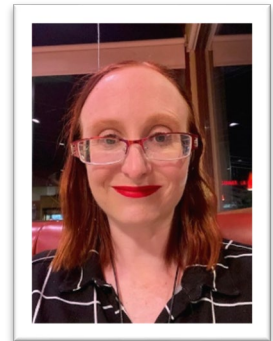
*Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.  
When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.  
When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.*  
*Jeremiah 29:11-13*



**Oliver Danner**, is a member of Lander University Class of 2025. He has earned a Bachelors Degree in Special Education and will be teaching this fall at Lake Carolina Upper Campus in the Richland County Schools.

**Ellery DeRosa** graduates from Lander University with her Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. She looks forward to student teaching this fall at Ware Shoals Middle School.

**Autumn Mossman**, graduated from North Greenville University in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Psychology. After a summer break, Autumn plans to return to the classroom this fall to pursue her Master's degree in Social Work. She hopes to work with families and children as a counselor or therapist.





*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.*

In these summer months, the Spirit disperses us to be witnesses in many places.  
Know we are together in spirit, wherever we are.  
Note here the many ways to stay connected in person and from a distance over the summer.

## **Worship**

*"Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say, rejoice!" Philippians 4:4*

**Sunday Mornings at WPC**                      10:00 am                      Sanctuary, Cokesbury Campus  
Each Sunday this summer, except for May 25 when we will worship together at Camp Fellowship.

**WOW (Worship on the Water)**                      10:30 am                      Camp Fellowship  
Come by boat. Come by car. Come as you are. This is Westminster's mission to our Lake Greenwood neighbors. All are welcome!

**Dinner Church**                      5:00 pm                      Fellowship Hall, Cokesbury Campus  
Make a Meal. Make a Friend. Make a Difference. **Fourth** Sunday evenings in June, July, and August. This is an evening of fellowship, service, and worship.

If you worship in another church while you are traveling this summer, please greet these brothers and sisters on our behalf and bring a bulletin home to share with us!

## Growing Disciples

*Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105*

<b>Sunday School</b>	9:00am	Cokesbury Campus
Classes for children, youth, and adults, continue all summer long.		
<b>Vacation Bible School</b>	9:30 – 11:30 June 2-6	Fellowship Hall
“Stories from the Faith Family Tree” VBS is for children ages 4 to 5 <sup>th</sup> grade.		
Middle Schoolers are welcome as helpers.		
Please contact the church office to register children and volunteers.		
<b>Brown Bags and Books</b>	Wednesdays 6:00 pm	Joe Getty’s Classroom

## A Summer of Joyful Prayer

*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*

*Philippians 2:2*

Westminster Family and Friends are invited to pause each day for prayer at 2:02 pm, focusing on Paul’s guidance in Chapter 2, Verse 2:

- Joy: Offer adoration, praise, and thanksgiving to God for all God is and does! Ask God to help you find joy in serving.
- Like-minded: Ask God to align your heart and mind to God’s guidance and for strength and courage to live according to God’s will. Ask God to align the church with God’s will.
- Love: Express your love to God and lift up those you love for God’s blessing, healing, comfort, and safety. Ask God to open the hearts of our enemies and replace fear and evil with love.
- Being in one spirit and of one mind: Acknowledge God’s sovereignty over this world and all that it in it, now and forever. Pray for unity for all Christians everywhere. Give the Holy Spirit control over our present and our future. AMEN!

Note that the twin twos also link us to:

- God being there whenever two or more are gathered in His name—Matthew 18:20
- Jesus sending the disciples out two by two—Mark 6:7
- We are yoked together in service—Matthew 11:28-30

**Remember!** Send your prayer requests to the church office  
and join us on Mondays at NOON for Zoom Prayers.

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## **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*An Inclusive Community of Faith*

*United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ*

Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. – Noon    Office Phone: 864.229.3595

[www.wpcgnwd.org](http://www.wpcgnwd.org)    [wpcgwd1@gmail.com](mailto:wpcgwd1@gmail.com)

Clerk of Session

Claire Kuhl

Treasurer

Len Bornemann

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

### **RULING ELDERS**

Class of 2025

Tina Corley

Rob Graves

Class of 2026

Laine Horowitz

Richard Wilson

Class of 2027

Luke Christie

Bill Kimler

**Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor**

317.777.1487

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

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