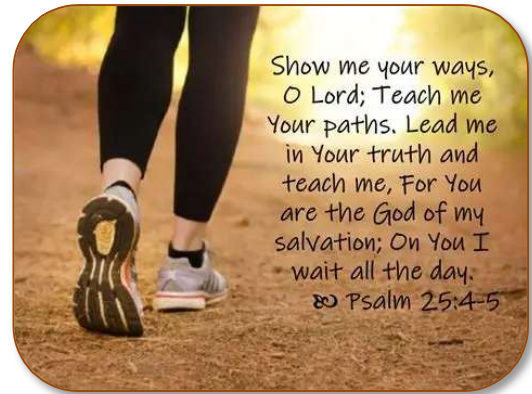




## Back to School

Believe it or not, it is back-to-school time! With some of our local modified calendars, we can expect to see back-to-school photos from middle of July to end of August. Collected over years, these photos show such growth in the children pictured.

In this season, we pray for those pictured to be greeted with joy, to be knit into their classroom communities, to be kept safe, and to grow each day in wisdom and stature.



One thing about Presbyterians is that we are lifelong learners. So, even when we aren't in school ourselves, there is something about this season that begs for a growth spurt. Something that longs for a few new school supplies, a fresh new textbook, some new conversation partners.

If you're feeling that urge to grow, I hope that you will seek out one of WPC's "classrooms" during this Back-to-School season. You'll see that on Sunday mornings in August, our Adult Class continues its series "Sacred Altars and Holy Gifts," and then will tackle "Science and Faith" in September. A "Welcome to Westminster" mini-series is being offered in August and September for folks new to Westminster. And on Wednesday nights, our Books & Brown Bags group is diving into the classic tale, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis.

Our prayer for those who gather for these classes is similar to our prayer for students heading back to school. We pray that you will be greeted with joy, be knit into community, will find yourself in a place that is safe to ask questions and offer new ideas, and that you will grow in wisdom and stature in ways both visible and invisible.

With joy in returning to school with you and growing as disciples in Jesus Christ, I am your pastor and friend,

 Caroline

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:13

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## August Sermon Series: Good Words

In this back-to-school season, we delve into some good words. We start the month off with a close look at what is known as the Apostolic Blessing; that is, a blessing or benediction (which means *good word*) for those being sent. It comes from 2 Corinthians 13:13. You will recognize it as the benediction we use most Sundays: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the



love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” These good trinitarian words of blessing at the end of Paul’s letter to the Corinthians unite all Christians as we are sent out into the world.

The next word, *predestination*, is one that folks believe to be particularly Presbyterian. It, too, comes from Paul’s letters, this time, his letter to the Romans. John Calvin had a particular take on this idea, which was later reworked by Karl Barth. We’ll unpack this on the fourth Sunday of the month.

On the fifth Sunday of the month, we’ll have a little grammar lesson. Let’s talk together about God’s pronouns. He? She? They? You? How we talk about and to God matters. We’ll talk about why each of these choices is a good one, expanding our understanding of our God, who is beyond all words.

### **August 3: Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

*Communion/Food Bank*

† Hosea 11:1-11

† Colossians 3:1-11

### **August 10: Love of God**

† 1 John 4:7-21

† Romans 12:9-18

### **August 17: Communion of the Holy Spirit**

† John 14:15-26

† Galatians 3:26-29

### **August 24: Predestination**

† Genesis 12:1-3

† Romans 8:28-39

### **August 31: Personal Pronouns**

† Genesis 1:26-27

† Matthew 6:25-27

† Psalm 139:1-10

God said to Moses, “I am who I am.”

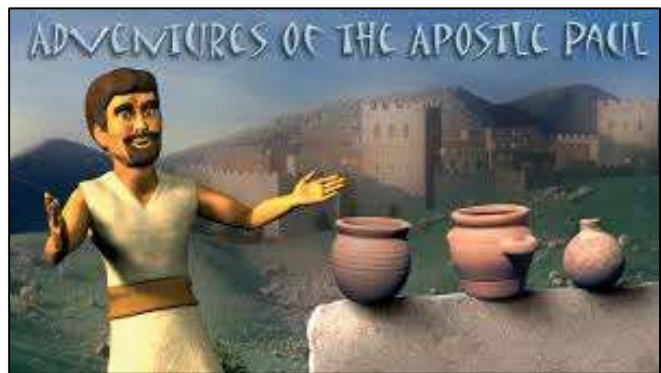
Exodus 3:14

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## Our Children Join Paul in His Travels

*Submitted by Kathy Gillespie*

During July, the children’s Sunday school class began learning about the apostle Paul. They read stories about Paul’s experience on the road to Damascus, his journeys, and some of the people he met. In August, the children will continue their study of Paul. They will read about a shipwreck, an earthquake, and other adventures. They will also learn about the letters that Paul wrote.



The children will continue learning memory verses and work on their memory verse journals.

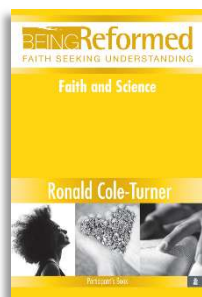
“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

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## Adult Study Tackles Big Questions: Sundays at 9:00 A.M.

As summer draws to a close, so does the current study exploring “Sacred Altars and Holy Offerings.” Expanding our understanding of altars and temples, and their role in worship, our August lessons consider how we—and our physical bodies—*are* the Church and belong to God. Feel free to jump in any time. Each Sunday discussion is valuable, whether or not you’ve participated in previous lessons.

Looking ahead to September, you are cordially invited to a **challenging new study**, “**Faith and Science**,” from PC(USA)’s “Being Reformed” series. This six-week study will be team-taught by Dr. Steve Kuhl and his wife, Claire. Steve’s long career as a microbiologist, researcher, and teacher has prepared him well to lead discussion on some of the really big questions that most of us have pondered at one time or another:



- Are faith and science at war—can rational people believe in God?
- What is our place in the cosmos—is humanity unique?
- How do we make sense of evolution—what about those 7 biblical days?
- Are my brain, mind, and soul the same...or different?
- How should Christians address the ethical challenges of humanity’s ever-growing technological capabilities—genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, and galactic exploration, to name a few?

Claire hastens to note that while we are unlikely to agree on definitive answers for many of these topics, our efforts to wrestle with them will build both our spiritual and intellectual muscles. Interested? Have a particularly thorny question you’d like to discuss? Tell Steve or Claire your thoughts, and put 9:00 A.M., September 7 in your calendar to come and join us!

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## Three Wonder-Full Ways to Worship in July

Every Sunday at 10:00 A.M.

**Worship with Westminster** at our Cokesbury Campus or via our YouTube channel. Start your sabbath with Sunday school at 9:00 A.M. and stay for worship afterward.

Every Sunday at 10:30 A.M.

**Worship on the Water** at Fellowship Camp and Conference Center followed by community lunch hosted by Camp Fellowship.



Fourth Sundays this Summer at 5:00 P.M.

**Dinner Church** in the Fellowship Hall: *Make a friend. Make a meal. Make a difference.*

You’ll find plenty of creation and *re-creation* at Dinner Church this summer as we jump into this summer’s Dinner Church theme: *Eat, Play, Love!*

Dinner Church meets in Fellowship Hall and starts with a time for service, followed by a shared meal, followed by worship. Truly fun for all ages! Be sure to bring friends, especially those who haven’t tried church for a while and may be surprised by how much they enjoy God!

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# Westminster Happenings

<b>Sunday August 3</b>	<b><i>Cokesbury Campus</i></b> <b>Welcome to Westminster Mini-Series</b> ( <i>see page 8</i> ) Gather at 8:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Learn more about Westminster and what it means to be Presbyterian.
	<b>Sunday School</b> Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
	<b>Good Words: Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> <i>Communion/Food Bank Collection</i> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Find freedom and new life through the grace of our Lord.
	<b>Worship &amp; Music Ministry Team Meeting</b> Meet in the Choir Room at 11:15 A.M. Tell us what you love about worship, and your ideas for improving it.
	<b>Nurture &amp; Education Ministry Team Meeting</b> Come to the Choir Room at 3:00 P.M. Contribute your ideas about spiritual growth opportunities for all ages.
	<b><i>Camp Fellowship</i></b> <b>Worship on the Water</b> Worship at 10:30 A.M. Daryl Fetzer, Guest Preacher.
<b>Monday August 4</b>	<b>Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom</b> Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon. Pray together for this congregation, for friends, and for the world. <b>BEMA Bible Discussion Group</b> Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
<b>Wednesday August 6</b>	<b>Books &amp; Brown Bags Study Group</b> ( <i>see page 9</i> ) Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Continue reading C.S. Lewis's <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> .
<b>Thursday August 7</b>	<b>Mission &amp; Outreach Ministry Team Meeting</b> Come together in the Choir Room at 6:00 P.M. Interested in connecting with the community? New members welcome!

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Sunday  
August 10**

### ***Cokesbury Campus***

#### **Welcome to Westminster Mini-Series**

Gather at 8:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Explore what Presbyterians believe about Holy Scripture, God, and Jesus.

#### **Sunday School**

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.

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

#### **Good Words: Love of God**

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

Know that God is love and abide in God's love.

### ***Camp Fellowship***

#### **Worship on the Water**

Worship at 10:30 A.M.

Katie Henderson, Guest Preacher.

**Monday  
August 11**

#### **Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**

Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

Pray together for this congregation, for friends, and for the world.

#### **BEMA Bible Discussion Group**

Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday  
August 12**

#### **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  
August 13**

#### **Books & Brown Bags Study Group**

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

Go back through the wardrobe to explore Narnia.

**Sunday  
August 17**

### ***Cokesbury Campus***

#### **Welcome to Westminster Mini-Series**

Gather at 8:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Consider the nature of Humanity and our relationship with God.

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

<b>Sunday August 17, <i>continued</i></b>	<b><i>Cokesbury Campus</i></b> <b>Sunday School</b> Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
	<b>Good Words: Communion of the Holy Spirit</b> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Let the Holy Spirit teach you and remind you of everything Christ said.
	<b>Ice Cream Social with Trinity Presbytery Western Cluster</b> ( <i>see pg. 10</i> ) Gather at 4:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Grab a spoon and enjoy the fun as we host 12 congregations in our area.
<b>Monday August 18</b>	<b><i>Camp Fellowship</i></b> <b>Worship on the Water</b> Worship at 10:30 A.M. Scott Crane, Guest Preacher.
	<b>Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom</b> Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon. Pray together for this congregation, for friends, and for the world.
	<b>BEMA Bible Discussion Group</b> Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.
<b>Wednesday August 20</b>	<b>Books &amp; Brown Bags Study Group</b> Come to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M. Revel in the joys of <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> .
<b>Saturday August 23</b>	<b>Trinity Presbytery Stated Meeting</b> Participate in our polity at First Aiken Presbyterian Church at 8:30 A.M. Pray for powerful worship and wise discernment for our Presbytery.
<b>Sunday August 24</b>	<b><i>Cokesbury Campus</i></b> <b>Welcome to Westminster Mini-Series</b> Gather at 8:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Explore how Presbyterians worship and what sacraments we cherish.
	<b>Sunday School</b> Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room. Children and Youth: Meet at 9:00 A.M. in lower-level education wing.
	<b>Good Words: Predestination</b> Worship at 10:00 A.M. in person or via live streaming. Give thanks that <i>nothing</i> can separate us from the love of God.

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## Westminster Happenings, *continued*

**Sunday**  
**August 24,**  
***continued***

***Cokesbury Campus***

**Dinner Church:** Eat • Play • Love (*see page 3*)

Come to the Kitchen at 5:00 P.M.

Enjoy God, follow Jesus, and grow disciples in a unique worship setting.

***Camp Fellowship***

**Worship on the Water**

Worship at 10:30 A.M.

Tom Malone, Guest Preacher.

**Monday**  
**August 25**

**Prayer Time in the Upper Zoom**

Look for the Monday prayer list email and join via Zoom at noon.

Pray together for this congregation, for friends, and for the world.

**BEMA Bible Discussion Group**

Meet in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

**Wednesday**  
**August 27**

**Books & Brown Bags Study Group**

Bring your sack snack to the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Continue the adventure of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

**Thursday**  
**August 28**

**PFLAG Meeting** (*see page 9*)

Connect in the Joe Gettys Room at 6:00 P.M.

Learn more about PFLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

**Sunday**  
**August 31**

***Cokesbury Campus***

***Note: No Welcome to Westminster Session—Labor Day Weekend***

**Sunday School**

Adults: Gather at 9:00 A.M. in the Choir Room.

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

**Good Words: Personal Pronouns**

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

Expand your understanding of God, The Great “I AM.”

***Camp Fellowship***

**Worship on the Water**

Worship at 10:30 A.M.

Phillip Dennis, Guest Preacher.

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## Things That Make You Go “HmMMM...”

**Welcome to Westminster Inquirer’s Mini-Series**  
**Sunday mornings August - September**  
**8:45 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Looking out from the Westminster pulpit these days is incredibly exciting! We see welcoming hugs and handshakes, we hear laughter, and we experience the thrill of spotting many new faces among the familiar ones. Look at what God is doing at Westminster!

Sometimes, we also see puzzled expressions on those faces. “What are we doing?” “Why do we do that??” “That’s not what we did in my old church!” “I’m new to this church stuff—this just seems weird to me.”

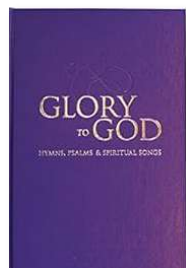
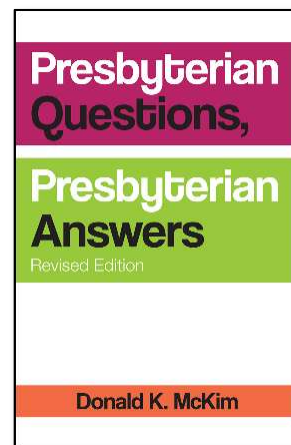
At Westminster, we love people who ask good questions, and we love coming together to find answers. To help do that, we are offering a special Welcome to Westminster mini-series on Sunday mornings throughout August and September (excluding Labor Day weekend). The purpose of this series is to get to know you better, and for you to get to know us better.

Each session starts with fellowship time from 8:45 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. Then we’ll explore Presbyterian theology and practice, as well as learn about Westminster history and congregational life. This will be a time for you to get to know our mission and vision, our leaders, your classmates, and our building better. Pastor Caroline is the facilitator, and she will be assisted by guest presenters, including, among others, the elders currently serving on the Session. (“What’s an elder? What’s a *Session*?” Come to class and find out!)

As a focal point for our discussions about being Presbyterian, we’ll use *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*, by David McKim. This lively Q&A-style book will step us through core issues of our faith and practice, including our understanding of the Bible, of God and God’s relationship with Humanity, of the church and its role in individual and community life, and much, much more. Copies of the book are available at no charge. And Pastor Caroline is happy to provide you with the full syllabus on request.

If you are prayerfully discerning whether you are called to join Westminster, this series will be a valuable part of your process. And if you are simply curious and eager to learn, you are equally welcome and equally likely to come away with deeper insights and understanding about your relationship with God and church.

Put these dates in your calendar, and plan to set aside this time on Sunday mornings to dive more deeply into your faith and your faith family. Note that Sunday School for Children and Youth is always available on Sunday mornings.



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## Things That Make You Go “Hum!”

Be sure to let someone on the Worship & Music Ministry Team know what hymns you’d enjoy singing this summer. Browse through our new Glory to God hymnals to see what old treasures and new potential favorites you can find. Help us enjoy God by offering joyful, noisy praise! You might even leave worship humming something holy and happy!

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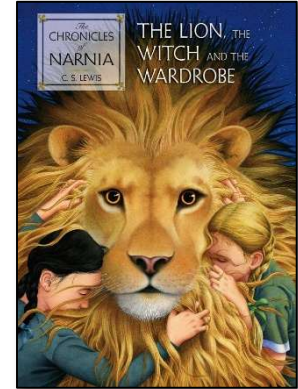
## Are You Old Enough to Read Fairy Tales Again?



**Books & Brown Bags: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe***  
**Every Wednesday in August**  
**6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.**  
**Joe Gettys Room**

This is the dedication letter C.S. Lewis wrote to his goddaughter, Lucy Barfield, in the first volume of his Chronicles of Narnia series, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

"My dear Lucy, I wrote this story for you, but when I began it I had not realized that girls grow quicker than books. As a result, you are already too old for fairy tales, and by the time it is printed and bound, you will be older still. But some day, you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales once again. You can then take it down from some upper shelf, dust it, and tell me what you think of it. I shall probably be too deaf to hear and too old to understand a word you say, but I shall still be.... your affectionate Godfather, C.S. Lewis."



So, if you are old enough to read fairy tales again - read the first five chapters of this beloved classic, join us at 6:00 on Wednesday in Fellowship Hall, and tell us what you think.

*P.S. One additional copy is available in the church library if you need it.*

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### WOW Wraps Up

Our successful Worship On the Water summer series continues through Labor Day weekend. Services are held at Camp Fellowship's pavilion on Lake Greenwood each Sunday at 10:30 A.M. Music is provided by David Bell, Larry Dozier, John Campbell Lake, and Debi Ward. Our Camp Fellowship partners host a free community lunch in their dining hall after worship.



Pastors representing many denominations and churches throughout Greenwood will provide powerful preaching every Sunday:

- 8/3 Daryl Fetzer
- 8/10 Katie Henderson
- 8/17 Scott Crane
- 8/24 Tom Malone
- 8/31 Phillip Dennis

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### WPC Hosts PFLAG 8/28

PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. A new chapter has recently formed here in Greenwood. Amanda Gouldsmith, Oliver Danner's mom, is President, and Josh Wicker is Vice-President.



PFLAG Greenwood meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the Westminster Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is August 28<sup>th</sup>.

PFLAG's network of hundreds of chapters and more than 325,000 members and supporters are helping create an equitable and inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person is safe, celebrated, empowered, and loved. Share this information with people who might benefit from this valuable group.

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## Ice Cream Social Offers Summer Fun for Our PC(USA) Neighbors

On Sunday, August 17 at 4:30 P.M., friends from all twelve Trinity Presbytery Western Cluster churches will converge in our Fellowship Hall for an ice cream social. What a terrific way to cool off while celebrating summer with our cluster buddies!



The Western Cluster is one of the most active in Trinity Presbytery. Churches in our cluster: Abbeville, Calhoun Falls, First Presbyterian-Greenwood, Hodges, Little Mountain, Lowndes, New Faith, McCormick, Ninety Six, Upper Long Cane, Ware Shoals, and Westminster.

The gathering is a joint event—folks from all the congregations will pitch in to make things happen and, of course, savor the sweet results. As a central, well-equipped location accessible to all participants, WPC will provide clean and ready space in our Fellowship Hall, and provide for clean-up and some portion of the refreshments.

Stay tuned for details from the Congregational Care & Fellowship Ministry Team about what to bring. Hint: this might be a good time to dust off your ice cream churn!

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### Church Family Special Days

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



- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> – Luke Christie
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> – Paigelynn Tucker
- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> – Nicholas Schneider (Gillespie’s son-in-law)
- ❖ 22<sup>nd</sup> – Amy Woodrum
- ❖ 23<sup>rd</sup> – John Bacot
- ❖ 25<sup>th</sup> – Walter Hughes

Congratulations are also in order for these amazing couples celebrating their wedding anniversary:

- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> – Steve & Claire Kuhl
- ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> – David & Beth Hammond
- ❖ 16<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Theresa Jacobs
- ❖ 23<sup>rd</sup> – Larry & Licia Duncan
- ❖ 29<sup>th</sup> – Henry & Kaye Schwarzmann
- ❖ 30<sup>th</sup> – Marvin & Ginny Cartee

*Did we miss your special day? Don't forget that You can now update WPC's confidential member directory online.*

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### Help Us Keep You Safe!

As part of our commitment to care for one another, we're making sure we have updated emergency contact information for all regular attendees and staff. This is especially important for individuals who attend church independently and may not be able to communicate in a crisis.



In the event of a medical or personal emergency while at church, we want to be able to reach someone on your

behalf. You may also choose to tell us about medical conditions that might be critical for first responders to know. **This information could save your life!**

Please take a moment to fill out an Emergency Contact Form, available in the narthex and on our church website under the Resources tab. We will keep this information secure and accessible only to key staff and trained team members in case of emergency.

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## “I was a Stranger...”

*Submitted by Christy Irons*

*“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.”*

*Matthew 25:35*



A couple of years ago, I found myself a stranger in a new church, hungry for some sort of community. I had always been a churchgoer, even in college. But, as a real grown-up with three ridiculous boys that spit, throw goldfish crackers at strangers, and periodically disrobe for fun where does one go to worship?



My three little boys, Asher, Adam, and Atticus are three of four boys adopted from Ukraine. I recognize that they now look very Americanized but their beginnings were rather different. Asher and Adam were adopted together in 2014, and Atticus in 2018. They come from a country that was unsure how to care for people that are different, and so, the boys, all having Down syndrome, were abandoned to the government and languished in asylums, their bodies and minds atrophying from neglect of both.

While their beginnings are tragic, their current life is hilarious, the boys are absolutely in charge of our entire household. While they may screech like pterodactyls, and loudly giggle at their own troublesome antics, it does not make for good church behavior. And while “unto the least of these” has been drummed into my brain since childhood, it doesn’t always play out into real life when someone in the front gets pelted in the back of the head by something thrown during the opening hymn (and the next hymn, the sermon, and prayer...).

I love that the boys can come into this church and lie on the floor, laugh for no reason, periodically screech, burp, and loudly clap with it seeming to bother not a soul. Westminster has been radically welcoming, opening its doors to those of us that needed a soft place to land. You all have openly committed to caring for marginalized populations, not just by saying so, but by doing so. You have added to the goodness in humanity, and we are all better for it.

I am reminded here, in this place, that caring for others is never abstract, but more about a genuine spirit of welcoming all people, not in grand gestures, but in the quiet patience, compassion and kindness shown to three loud Ukrainians, on any given Sunday, in the back pew of Westminster. It is in the joyful chaos, the acceptance of what may look or sound different, and the willingness to invite the stranger in that we reflect the heart of Christ. Which is what we are all hoping for, I believe.



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*Westminster is registered with PC(USA) as a member of the Matthew 25 initiative. To learn more, visit <https://pcusa.org/matthew25>. Please send your ideas for living into this challenge to the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team. To share your personal experiences like Christy did, please send your story to [wpcgwd1@gmail.com](mailto:wpcgwd1@gmail.com).*

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## Worship & Music Ministry Team: Mad for Plaid!



Under the able leadership of Luke Christie, Westminster is moving toward our inaugural “Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans” worship service on September 7. If you aren’t familiar with the Kirkin’ service, we’ve provided a beginner’s guide on page 19.

The committee is eager to find all the Scottish clans represented in our congregation, so that your tartans can be included in the processional. Contact Luke or Gloria Christie to report your family’s plaid. Or, if you don’t have one (or don’t like yours), check out the Design Your Own Tartan activity on page 20. Mark your calendar for September 7—you won’t want to miss this unique inspirational event!

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## Message from Missions & Outreach Ministry Team

*Submitted by Laine Horowitz and Autumn Mossman*

Our church, via first the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team and then the Session, has joined two organizations devoted to helping churches become fully affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community and to helping members of the community find these churches Covenant Network of Presbyterians and More Light Presbyterians. Both organizations are Presbyterian non-profits. This month, we hope the following provides you with a proper introduction to Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Look for information about More Light Presbyterians in your September edition of *Westminster Times*.



**COVENANT NETWORK  
OF PRESBYTERIANS**

Founded in 1997 as a way to strengthen the church via LGBTQ+ inclusion, Covenant Network of Presbyterians (CNP) is a network of more than 400 congregations. That's thousands of individuals who are committed to affirming and celebrating the lives of everyone who falls under the rainbow umbrella. The work this incredible organization is doing has provided support through educational programs, resources for both congregations and individuals, advocating for church policy changes, and providing care and support to those who are facing exclusion and discrimination in church and religious spaces.

CNP's mission is brought about in three ways. The first is engaging the church to invite all of God's children into safe and welcoming congregational spaces that provide affirmation, healing, dignity, and purpose. Secondly, they are educating the church to expand their welcome to LGBTQ+ people, to affirm their gifts for ordained office, and to uphold marriage equality for everyone. Third, they are equipping the church to bear witness to justice via advocacy and activism at the international, national, and local church levels. They are speaking up and standing up for those who are facing hate and oppression.

CNP's mission being our mission is very important. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors and to help the least among us. Marginalized groups are certainly that in today's trying and sometimes cruel world. One of our main purposes as a church is to see our congregation grow and be strong. One of the surest ways to do that is to affirm. Welcome is a word a lot of people throw around, but it's a word that often comes with conditions. Affirmation, on the other hand, tells someone you accept them. Your love is as unconditional as Jesus's is.

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## Update from Your Business Affairs Ministry Team

*Submitted by Bill Kimler*

Hello fellow family members in Christ! I'm a few months into my role as Elder and chair of the Business Affairs Ministry Team (BAMT). I want to thank Claire Kuhl, Len Bornemann, Richard Wilson, Larry Dozier, David Hammond and, of course, Pastor Caroline Dennis for the incredible grace and patience they have extended to me as I settle into this role. I also have to give a shout-out to Nigel Irons for being a great partner in looking after grounds and maintenance. He and I are both getting our sea-legs still, but we're getting there!

Our mission is to enable all of the other Ministry Teams to achieve their outreach and worship goals by working behind the scenes to ensure:

- We have safe and functional facilities.
- Our place of worship and the surrounding grounds are a place of pride and beauty.
- We "render unto Caesar what it Caesar's" by paying bills, having a staffed, office and keeping our operations smooth.

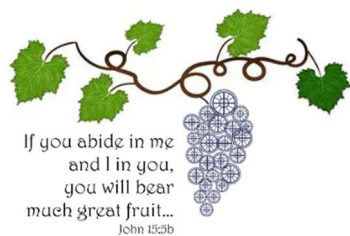
We may not have a direct mission of saving souls, but when I think about Jesus's own mission work, *somebody* had to maintain the boats he used to cross the Sea of Galilee all those times! *Somebody* had to procure the baskets and the initial fish and loaves of bread that Jesus then used to perform his miracle of feeding the multitudes. *Somebody* had to have been in charge of doing his laundry (and that of his disciples)! So I'm excited and proud of the work we do. If you don't know we're doing it, then we're doing our job well and we are going to work to achieve that desired outcome.

Onto a more practical matter: We lost a cooling unit upstairs that served the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall and the Joe Gettys room. Fortunately, we've got a replacement getting installed on Mon, August 4. We appreciate everyone's patience on this! We've also recently lost the water fountain outside of the pastor's office, so we'll be investigating how best to address that.

We're looking at a rather impressive list of work items that need to be done and a wish list of improvements to make. If you see something that needs to be done or have some ideas for improvements, please let me know! And if you can lend your skills, time, and energy to some of the work, please let me know that, as well. Many thanks!

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## Setting the Stage for Stewardship Season



With Fall approaching, your Stewardship team is busy preparing to put together next year's church budget. As you know, the budget is always grounded in the financial commitments that you make during Stewardship Season. Now is a great time to think about all the blessings God has showered on you, and to dream about the great things you envision our wonderful church doing in 2026—all the great fruit you hope we will bear. Then pray for God's guidance on how you will support those things with your time, talent, and treasure. Remember these words from John's Gospel: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." How will you be the best possible branch?

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## Stewardship Snapshot

The Stewardship Snapshot is a regular report from the Session to the *Westminster Times* newsletter. Please note that because of the newsletter publication schedule vs. timing of month-end close, these reports will typically be about six weeks behind.



### June 2025

	June Actual	Monthly Budget	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	\$18,782	\$20,295	\$128,532	\$121,768
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$18,955	\$19,797	\$116,350	\$118,783
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	—\$172		\$12,182	

June was basically a breakeven month financially, with a net loss of just \$172. Committee expenses were held in good control at \$800 favorable results compared to budget.

Total revenues were \$1,500 negative compared to budget. Member pledge contributions were \$4,600 below budget; however, non-member contributions were \$2,000 favorable to budget for the month. A designated contribution of about \$1,000 was recorded in the total, but that amount was offset in Awareness and Communications expenses in the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team budget lines.

*Please direct any questions about church financial matters to Treasurer Len Bornemann or to the Business Affairs Ministry Team.*

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## Set Your Watch! Philippians 02:02 Challenge Continues



Set your phone, your watch, and your alarm clock to go off at **2:02 P.M.** every day. When you hear the alert, pause to pray **wherever you are**, focusing on Paul's guidance to the Philippians in Chapter **2**, Verse **2**. We are one church in many places, and God is with us in each and every one of them. May your summer and our church be blessed by this discipline of daily shared prayer—diverse & united.

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## His Tithes and Our Offerings

Giving of your time, talent, and treasure shows your gratitude for God's many gifts to you. The Bible tells us that tithing (giving 10%) is expected, *and* that offerings of *any* size are welcomed and celebrated in heaven...and here at Westminster!

You can send your contributions by scanning the QR code at right, by using the offering plate in the narthex, or by mailing checks to:

Westminster Presbyterian PC(USA)  
2330 Cokesbury Road  
Greenwood, SC 29649



*"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*

*Philippians 1:3-5*

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## Top Ten Tips for Back-to-School Mental Wellness

Excerpted from [https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/back-to-school-top-10\\_English.pdf](https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Health/back-to-school-top-10_English.pdf)



- Remind your child that they're not alone. Nearly everyone feels behind in school this year.
- Hang in there and just do your best! Help your child know what to expect. Find out the school's policies this year. What's different about lockers, classrooms, lunch or anything else?
- Praise all your child's efforts! Life's more than grades. Recognize their curiosity, kindness and bravery.
- Pay attention to your own anxiety. Kids can sense anxiety. Talk to other adults to ease worry and get professional help if you need it.
- Get enough sleep. Preschoolers need 11-12 hours, school-aged kids need 10 hours and teens need 9-10 hours.
- Schedule quality time together. Just 1 hour makes a difference. Here's a topic of conversation: What are you most excited about this year?
- Encourage daily movement. Children need 1 hour of physical activity a day – riding a bike, a dance party or whatever gets them moving.
- Keep a routine. Waking up and going to bed at the same time every day improves mental health. (This goes for adults too!)
- Identify ways to calm stress. Taking deep breaths or holding something comforting in your hand (like a smooth rock) quietly relieve stress.
- Just ask! Ask your child if they're worried about being back in the classroom. Be a good listener and support them.

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### Learn CPR at Greenwood Y

**August 9, 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**  
**Greenwood YMCA—1760 Calhoun Road**

Become CPR certified with student doctor Jack Golder, and become familiar with Narcan use.

Westminster is equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), which is a good start. Now we need CPR-trained folks to maximize our potential for success in case of cardiac emergencies. This training is good for your family and ours.

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### Celebrating 150 Years!

You are cordially invited to join with our friends at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 7, 2025, to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of God's love, grace, faithfulness, and sustaining strength.

The main event begins at 3:00 P.M. at the church, located at 206 Mount Pilgrim Church Road in Prosperity, SC, 29127.

Please R.S.V.P. by August 23 by contacting Elder Lilly Gallman at (803) 397-6012.



# Including, Abiding, Enjoying, Following, and Growing

*A series exploring Westminster's foundational statements and strategic intention*

Our July Vision Statement discussion zooms in on the third element: to be “accessible to the un-churched and de-churched while sustaining long-time Christians in their ongoing faith journey.” Our shorthand for this is that Westminster will be both **Exploring & Sustaining**.

## Westminster Vision

As the Body of Christ, when we abide in God’s love and live into our mission, Westminster Presbyterian Church will be:

- Outward & inward
- Diverse & united
- Flexible & faithful
- Exploring & Sustaining

This element of our vision ties directly to our mission, especially the work of “growing disciples.”

We are helping to **grow new disciples** by seeking to understand and connect with the un-churched and de-churched. By showing love and concern for their struggles. By modeling that it’s really possible to *enjoy* God. By celebrating and sharing the Good News of Christ’s saving grace. By assuring them that they are beloved children of God, created in God’s image, and valued by us as part of our church family.

We are helping our long-time fellow believers **grow as disciples** by extending to them that same love, concern, joy, and value. And by ensuring that our worship, study, and works respect and build on their well-established habits and commitments. Westminster is called to be a wellspring of spirit-filled worship and faith-formation opportunities for all levels of spiritual development.



Where do you see Westminster *exploring*? One great example is our Dinner Church summer series. It has grown steadily over the three years since we began. And this year especially we are blessed by several new participants who are “kinda *over*” stuffy worship and judgy groups. It is encouraging to enjoy God with these

explorers—as a matter of fact, this experience is also *sustaining* for participants who are already members.

Speaking of that latter group, where do you see Westminster *sustaining*? Well, our Sunday morning worship faithfully honors 500+ years of Reformed tradition and 40+ years of Westminster tradition.



Our Sunday schools for adults and children, and our BEMA study group continually build Bible knowledge and spiritual understanding. It’s not usual for these disciples to dig very deeply into scripture and into life’s most difficult questions. Finally, those engaging in our mission activities are sustained by the growth that comes from putting your faith into action, by following in Jesus’ footsteps, and responding affirmatively to the Great Commission to “go into all the world.”

As you worship and work in the coming months, determine what you can be doing to help Westminster to be “accessible to the un-churched and de-churched while sustaining long-time Christians in their ongoing faith journey.”

**Next Month:** An in-depth look at Westminster’s three core strategic directions

## Let Us Pray...

*"Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;  
pray in the Holy Spirit"*

*Jude 1:20*



### For Those in Our Church

*We share one another's joys and concerns:*

- John Bacot
- David Bell
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Kathy Felder
- Mac & Holly Hubbard
- Theresa Jacobs
- Kelli Lott & Gabby
- Savanah & Briar Rose
- Dashe & Aaron Hoang
- Denise Waldrep
- The Watkins Family
- Ed Watkins
- Kathy West
- Mary Anne Wilson
- 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 of our church, especially:*

- Presbyterian Communities of SC
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Presbyterian College
- NAMI
- Pathway House
- Food Bank
- Soup Kitchen
- Meg's House
- Beyond Abuse
- GG United Ministries
- Healthy Learners
- Camp Fellowship
- 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*)
- Judy Buck (*Lucia*)
- Iris Bullard (*Mary Anne*)
- Jeff Crisp (*Hammonds*)
- John Gettys (*Mary Anne*)
- Lib Grier (*many*)
- Amy Jennings (*Denise*)
- Randy Kuhl (*Steve*)
- Katherine Martin (*many*)
- Dabney Mahanes (*Denise*)
- Susy Mitchell (*many*)
- Patricia Lytle (*Beth*)
- Tarri McKinney (*Suzy*)
- Lillian Moneyhun (*many*)
- Cameron Murphy (*Sarah*)
- Richard Pinkney (*Len*)
- Heath & Margaret Rada (*Joyce*)
- Loraine Waldrep (*Denise*)
- Tatum Foley (*Heather*)
- Rick McGee (*Claire*)
- Michaela (*Sarah*)

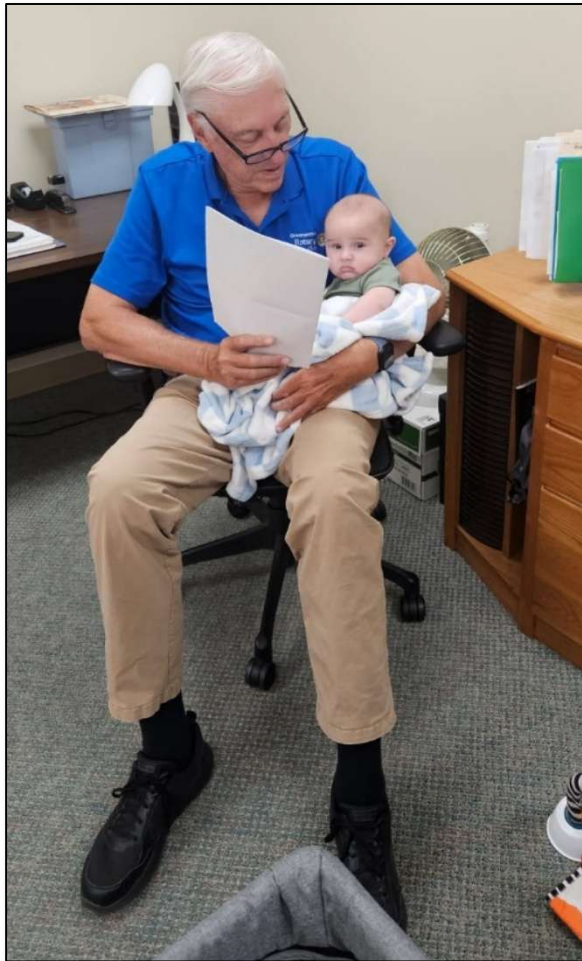


### For the World

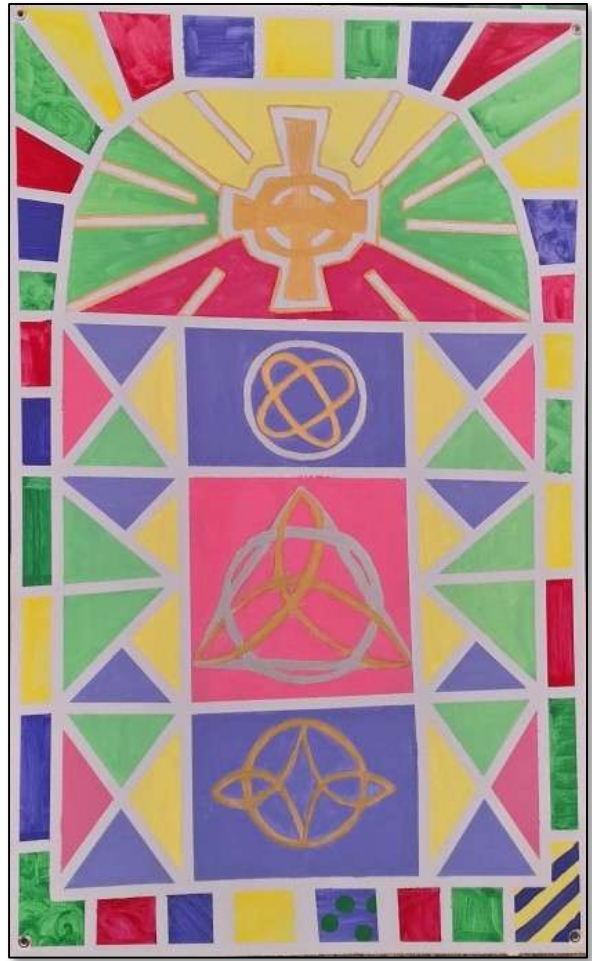
*We pray for our neighbors everywhere who we are called to love:*

- For teachers, students, families, and school staff as they return to school
- For justice and mercy to prevail throughout the world—*thy* will be done
- For the safety of Christians in Pakistan and other war-torn areas
- For real peace in Ukraine and Russia, in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Syria, and elsewhere
- 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
- For all who experience exclusion, or who struggle to meet basic needs
- For unity among Christians in every congregation, country, and corner of the world

## And God Saw That It Was Good



Len and James Daniel Warner review month-end financials



Dinner Church art orchestrated by Ginny Cartee – Love!



2026 Toddler Learning Center Graduation

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## Kirkin' O' the Tartans FAQs

Excerpted from <https://fromarockyhillside.com/2019/04/25/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-kirkin/>

**What is “The Kirk”?** In Britain and Europe, Presbyterian Churches are usually known as “Reformed Churches.” In Scotland, however, our tradition is the established and sanctioned Church of the Government of Scotland. Thus our Christian tradition is known as “The Church of Scotland” [in the same manner that the “Church of England” is the Anglican (i.e. Episcopal) Church]. The Church of Scotland is commonly known simply as “The Kirk.”

**What is a Tartan?** *Tartan* refers to the pattern of interlocking stripes, running in both the warp and weft in the cloth (horizontal and vertical), or any representation of such a woven design in other media (printed, painted, or otherwise rendered). Typically, today one thinks of “clan tartans” — that is, tartan designs that represent certain Scottish clans and families. While this is typical, it was not always so. Tartan has an ancient history. The earliest known tartan in Scotland can be dated to the third or fourth century AD.



**Is the Kirkin' o' the Tartan, an auld Scottish Rite?** Many people are under assumption that the “Kirkin' o' the Tartan” is an ancient Scottish Church Ceremony. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. While based on Scottish legend and folklore, this ceremony is distinctly American. It traces its roots to the life and ministry of The Reverend Dr. Peter Marshall, a Scottish émigré.

Dr. Marshall was a prominent minister in the Presbyterian Church, who served as the Chaplain to the United States Senate at the advent of World War II. In April 1941, while serving as the Pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Dr. Marshall titled one of his sermons “Kirkin' o' the Tartan.” This name soon became attached to church services that celebrate with pride their Scottish heritage. While more commonly celebrated by Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, today this celebration is utilized by a variety of Christian denominations for Scottish heritage events.

**Why was the tartan banned?** During the long course of Scottish history, the Scots and the English were to make war against one another many times. The last Scottish rebellion began in 1745, and ended in 1746 with the Battle of Culloden Moor. The triumphant George II banned all elements of Scottish culture, including the wearing of the kilt, the use of the Gaelic language, the ancient “clan system,” and the tartans.

**Why does one observe Celtic Crosses in Presbyterian Churches?** Throughout Scotland and Ireland, one may observe ancient Celtic Crosses in Churches and Christian Cemeteries. These crosses feature a scalloped cross, which is superimposed upon a circle. Modern Celtic Crosses feature long arms, but the ancient Celtic Crosses had short, stubby arms. The imposition of the cross upon a circle represents “Christ's dominion over all the world.”

**Important Note:** Our Kirkin' O' the Tartans worship will be graced by a bagpiper. Their sound is unique, beautiful, and *loud*. If you or your child are sensitive to loud sounds, consider using ear protection for September 7 worship.

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## Design Your Own Family Tartan

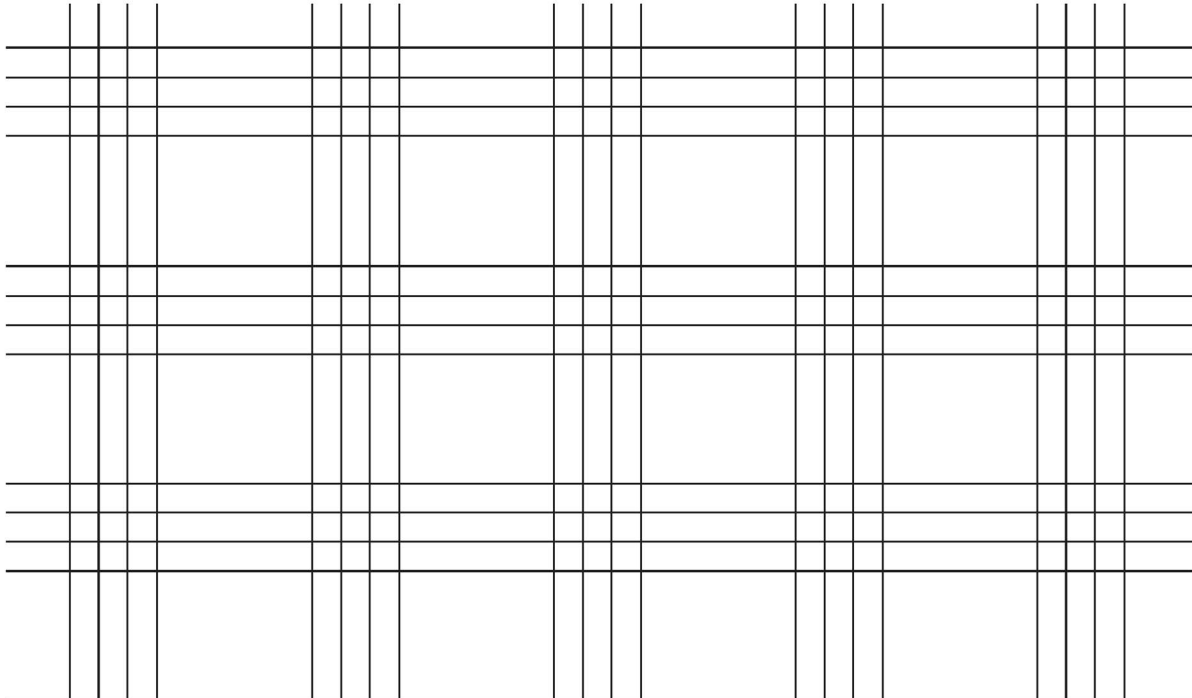
This is an activity for your household, small group, or friend group. Perhaps you want to try your hand at designing a tartan for our church? Consider the colors you would like to use. Consider the meaning you would like to assign to those colors. For example, red could mean courage or love. Blue might symbolize fidelity or peace. Yellow could symbolize joy or the light of Christ. White, in light color theory, is the combination of all colors, so might symbolize inclusion.


One tartan template is provided for you below. In the Narthex, you will find two different full-page coloring sheets for you to use. Talk with your family or group about the which color will be dominant, and use that one on the broader stripes. Begin coloring. See how the colors mix where they cross.

If your family has a traditional tartan, let us know. We'd like to share that at our first Wee Kirkin' on September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you don't have a family tartan, consider designing one and sharing that with us.

All tartans will be blessed on our Kirking of the Tartan Sunday. Please submit your tartan by Sunday, August 31, along with the name of your family or group and a key to your color choices, if you wish.

### Design Your Own Tartan



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