



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC (USA)



The mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church  
is to be an inclusive community of faith,  
abiding in God's love and committed to  
Enjoying God, Following Jesus, and Growing Disciples

## 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting

11:00, Sunday, January 18, 2026

- ❖ Opening Prayer – Caroline V. Dennis, Moderator
- ❖ Establish a Quorum – Claire Kuhl, Clerk of Session
- ❖ Presentation of 2026 Operating Budget – Bill Kimler, Elder
- ❖ Congregational Vote: Pastor's Terms of Call – Bill Kimler, Elder
- ❖ Motion to Adjourn – Caroline V. Dennis, Moderator
- ❖ Hymn and Benediction – Caroline V. Dennis, Pastor

## 2026 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET

### Bearing Much Great Fruit in 2026

Throughout 2025, you have demonstrated your grateful response to God's generosity by being generous yourselves with your time, talents, and financial support. Thanks to your prayerful and powerful covenant commitments during this stewardship season, we witness to the bountiful harvest possible when a people abide in God's inclusive love.

Above and beyond meeting our day-to-day operational needs, WPC continues to maintain a strong investment balance that generates income while remaining readily accessible for major capital investments and emergency expenditures. At the close of 2025, our reserve fund balance increased over last year by \$17,500 to an end of year balance of \$279,500. In addition to the reserve fund, there are \$17,000 in memorial funds held in our investment account at the close of 2025.

Thank you *always* for your gifts, prayers, and joyous participation in our mission!

#### Income

Member pledges	\$287,300
Other regular contributions	\$6,000
Designated contributions	\$3,272
Special offerings (placeholder)	\$96
Other income:	
Toddler Learning Center	\$9,000
	<b>Total Income</b>
	<b>\$305,668</b>

*Reflects 25.5% increase over 2025*

#### Expenses

Staff salaries/benefits/taxes	\$128,548
Other Administration	\$38,297
Building & Grounds	\$51,143
Nurture & Education	\$10,212
Worship & Music	\$11,775
Missions & Outreach	\$13,984
Congregational Care & Fellowship	\$1,979
Routine capital maintenance	\$3,000
	<b>Total Expenses</b>
	<b>\$258,939</b>

*Reflects 8.7% increase over 2025*

#### Major Capital Expenditures

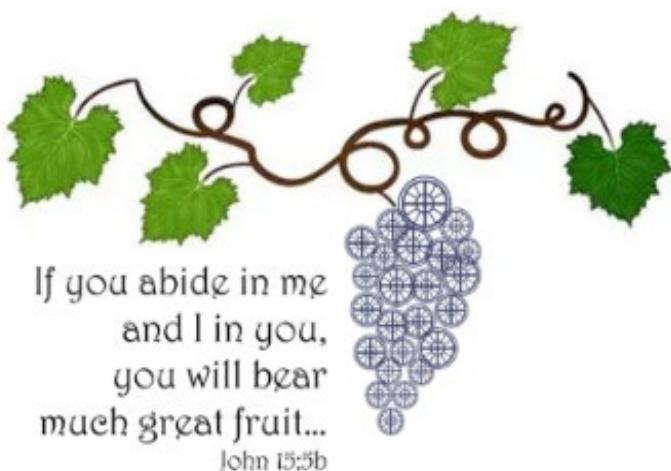
**\$34,000**

*Detailed line-item budget available  
for your review on request*



## PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL

	<i>Actual 2025</i>	<i>Proposed 2026</i>
Salary	\$35,228	\$33,026
Housing Allowance	\$26,058	\$26,000
SECA ( <i>similar to FICA</i> )	\$5,299	\$5,511
<b>Compensation</b>	<b>\$66,585</b>	<b>\$64,537</b>
Deferred Compensation	\$4,205	\$9,600
Board of Pensions	\$18,011	\$19,812
Additional Insurance	\$3,781	\$3,417
<b>Benefit Costs</b>	<b>\$25,997</b>	<b>\$32,829</b>
<b>Pastor Reimbursables</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>
<b>Total Costs to Church</b>	<b>\$97,082</b>	<b>\$101,866</b>
<i>Reflects 5% Salary/Housing, Deferred Comp increase</i>		



*"I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much great fruit,  
because apart from me you can do nothing."*  
*John 15:5*



## 2025 ANNUAL SESSION REPORT

### FROM THE PASTOR

What a beautiful invitation Jesus offers us. "Abide in me."

This annual report is like a harvest basket of fruit produced by a people who have accepted and offered God's inclusive invitation in Jesus Christ to abide in God's love, and who have made commitments to enjoy God, follow Jesus, and grow disciples.

At the beginning of the year, your Session adopted our new mission statement, and you have been living into it ever since.

The year kicked off with a breakfast hosted by our Congregational Care and Fellowship Team highlighting the many opportunities to make yourself at home at Westminster by engaging in small groups facilitated by our Nurture and Education Ministry Team.

Through Presbyterian Women, Brown Bags and Books, BEMA Podcast Discussion Group, Sunday Adult Study, Men's Fellowship Lunch, and even a small group of women who gather weekly to prepare lessons for our children, there are more than 65 adult engagements each week which deepen participant's faith and connection through study and fellowship. These gatherings often result in action outside the walls of our church. Our hope in the year to come is that every WPC church family member, adult, youth, and children, find a place of connection where we can abide together and grow together in God's love.

This is just one snapshot of the abundance this year abiding in Christ has brought forth. This report contains many more. May you rejoice as you read through this report in remembering all that God is doing at Westminster, as a gardener rejoices in the time of harvest. I believe God who is the Master Gardener rejoices with us!

Your pastor and friend,

*Caroline*

# The Vision of Westminster Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

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

- Focused outward to hear, serve, and proclaim while turning inward to reflect, renew, and equip
- Remarkable in our diversity while being united as the Body of Christ
  - Open to God's transforming Spirit while remaining faithful to our history and our calling
- Accessible to the un-churched and de-churched while sustaining long-time Christians in their ongoing faith journey

*See if you can find snapshots of our vision coming to life in our 2025 Annual Report.*

## BUSINESS AFFAIRS MINISTRY TEAM

**Bill Kimler, Chair**

### Ministry Team Members

- David Hammond, Treasurer
- Larry Dozier, Finance
- Rick Hobson, Personnel
- Claire Kuhl, Personnel and Stewardship
- Richard Wilson, Administration
- Richard Whiting, Buildings & Grounds
- Nigel Irons, Building & Grounds

The Business Affairs Ministry Team is tasked with making sure we have a safe and working environment in which to conduct the Church's ministry. We also ensure that Church operations run smoothly. It has been an interesting year of learning for this first-time committee chair! Here are a few 2025 highlights from BAMT's areas of responsibility: Administration, Building & Grounds, Finance, and Personnel.

### Finance

The loss of Len Bornemann this past year was a foundational loss to Westminster as a whole. For our Ministry Team, Len was a wonderful Treasurer and trusted advisor who guided us well. We are grateful to David Hammond for agreeing to fill this role. He has already made his expert mark on our monthly finances and budget planning processes.



### Facilities & Grounds

There's nothing like the loss of air conditioning in the summer to help set priorities for facility improvements! This past year, we replaced two of the 13 HVAC units, including the critical one responsible for heating and cooling the

Fellowship Hall hallway and kitchen. These new units will serve us for many years to come. However, we do still have a number of aging units that we will be keeping an eye on and planning for replacement once they've lived past their lifespan. We've had a successful year of volunteer efforts for ground beautification with three work days. Both inside and out, worker bees were effective in keeping our Church looking first class. One of the biggest improvements was the removal of an aging tree in the courtyard (stump and all!), replacing it with shrubbery that creates an open and welcoming environment.

Our kitchen received a new sink faucet and window frame replacement with near-term plans for even more improvements to this critical resource.

A steering committee is being formed to take a longer view of the strategic needs of our facilities, prioritizing, costing and fundraising for the capital improvements that Westminster Presbyterian will need in the upcoming decade to keep our facilities safe, functioning and more accessible.

### Personnel

We were thrilled to work with our Office Manager, Charleston, to cover for her during her maternity leave with a team of volunteers. In return, her new baby has graced our offices on occasion while momma works! It has been a wonderful blessing!



New computers have been provided to both our Pastor and Office Manager which should cover their technology needs for the next few years.

### Policies and Procedures

Slowly, but steadily, a Policies and Procedures book is being created that will govern how our Church operates, keeps us in compliance with government and Presbytery policies and will provide direction to how we react in various scenarios.

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP

**Luke Christie, Chair**

### Ministry Team Members:

- Robyn Agnew
- Gloria Christie
- Larry Dozier
- Nancy Dozier
- Arthur Gillespie
- Beth Hammond
- Claire Kuhl
- Mary Rogers
- Tim Rogers
- Elizabeth Watkins

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

*Psalm 95:1*

The mission of the Worship and Music Ministry Team is to work prayerfully with the Pastor and other worship leaders to engage the congregation in weekly and seasonal services of Spirit-filled worship that provide for the reading and proclamation of God's Word, the celebration of the sacraments, music, art, and space. The goal of every worship service is to glorify God and to create a space where every congregant can enjoy God.

### Weekly Worship

Westminster Presbyterian Church gathers for worship at 10:00 am. Our Sacred Spaces team makes sure that the paraments match the liturgical season, that fresh flowers adorn the sanctuary, and that the narthex is neat, warm, and welcoming.

The Worship and Music Ministry Team also provides for weekly liturgists and worship hosts. We are delighted that as Westminster's congregation grew in 2025, so did our roster of liturgists and hosts!



Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month. This year we began also serving Communion to homebound congregants once per quarter. Congregation members remember those who struggle to receive their daily bread by bringing items to stock the Greenwood County Food Bank on Communion Sundays.

Our Tech team makes sure the spoken and sung word can be heard by both those worshiping in person and those worshiping remotely. The team implemented several enhancements to the online worship experience this year, including making the livestream available directly on Westminster's website.

We partner with the Nurture and Education Ministry Team to prepare KITS, or "Kids in the Sanctuary" worship packets, and other age-appropriate materials for our children each week. What a joy it was to see our growing kids take a more active role in worship services this year!

## Music

Our Music team provides for an organist or pianist every Sunday as well as vocal leadership and special music throughout the year. 2025 challenged us to make a joyful noise in creative, nontraditional ways, as several of our faithful keyboardists and vocalists could not offer their gifts as regularly and fill-in church musicians are in short supply. But we sang on, accompanied by organ, piano, bagpipes, guitar, viola, and harmonica; once, we even sang a cappella!

In this challenging year especially, we are grateful for the generous musical offerings of the following Westminster volunteers:

Claire Kuhl and Larry Dozier (organ); Heather McDonald, Denise Waldrep, Elizabeth Watkins, and Clint McInnes (vocals); Nigel Irons, David Bell, Nancy Hart Wicker, Bill Jacobs, Tim Rogers, and the Westminster Irregulars (special music). We are also grateful for Denise Waldrep, Gloria Christie, and Robyn Agnew, who worked diligently to arrange for both weekly music leadership and periodic special music offerings.

Finally, we are grateful for the honoraria budget that made it possible to welcome many guest musicians this year: Beverly Psomas, Kristen Blackmon, Sara Waldrep, Amy Fennell, Benjamin Watkins, and Bradley Fuller (piano); Rodney Cleveland and Will Cleveland (organ/piano); Michaela Winfrey, Laura Margaret Fennell, Charlie Fennell, and Nickie Murphy (vocals); Silas Schiera (cello); Lyman Golden (guitar); David McLeod (bagpipes).

## Special Worship Services

Our Sacred Spaces team helps us prepare for special seasons and services including Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. During Lent and Holy Week, a cross is placed on our front lawn and draped with purple, black, or white cloth to note the successive seasons of preparation, lament, and celebration. During Advent, Sacred Spaces helps the congregation decorate the sanctuary. Congregation members sponsor lilies for Easter and poinsettias for Christmas in honor or memory of loved ones.

Special worship services are held annually on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve. In 2025, we also held a Service for Healing and Wholeness in November to provide a space of contemplative worship for those coping with sickness, stress, and grief.



This year, it was our joy to participate in the marriage of Westminster members, David Bell and Luann Sellers, on May 3. With hearts full of both sadness and joy, we also celebrated the life of Len Bornemann with a Service of Witness to the Resurrection on November 15. Thank you to Presbyterian Women and the Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry Team for providing a lovely reception for Len's funeral and other special services throughout the year!

## Hosting Trinity Presbytery



Westminster had the joy of hosting the Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery on May 17, 2025. Our congregation and campus welcomed commissioners from the presbytery's 50+ member churches,

an all-hands collaboration between Worship and Music, Congregational Care and Fellowship, and Building and Grounds (part of Business Affairs). The day consisted of a beautiful worship service, business meeting, and fellowship over two delicious meals prepared by Chef Rob and his kitchen crew.

## Summer at Westminster

Although the summer months find us in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, summer at Westminster is anything but ordinary! From Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day Sunday, Beth and David Hammond and Nancy and Larry Dozier coordinate Worship on the Water (WOW) at Fellowship Camp and Conference Center, a joy-filled worship service and outreach ministry that falls under the care of WPC's Mission and Outreach Ministry Team.

On the third Sunday of June, July, and August, Westminster also hosts Dinner Church, an intergenerational evening worship service in our Fellowship Hall. A collaboration among Mission and Outreach, Worship and Music,

and Congregational Care and Fellowship, Dinner Church combines mission and creative activities with an interactive service of worship that takes place around the dinner table.

## Kirkin o' the Tartans

On September 7, 2025, Westminster held its first-ever Kirkin' o' the Tartans, a special worship service celebrating the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church. Our wee Kirkin' honored the olden Scots' love of scripture and devotion to the Kirk (church) with a procession of colorful tartans (family plaids), powerful preaching, and stirring music! David McLeod and Tim Rogers played the bagpipes and snare drum respectively, and soloist Nickie Murphy offered a gorgeous rendition of "Brother James's Air" as an offertory anthem. The service was followed by a reception in the courtyard featuring yummy treats prepared by Congregational Care and Fellowship. The Kirkin' was a glorious service that we hope to make an annual tradition.



## Mission and Outreach

**Richard Wilson and Laine Horowitz,  
Co-Chairs**

### Ministry Team Members:

- Arthur Gillespie
- Beth Hammond
- Lucia Horowitz
- Autumn Mossman
- Tim Mossman
- Nancy Hart Wicker
- Karl Schwarzmann
- Richard & Wendy Whiting
- Kim Purcell
- Robyn Agnew

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40*

The Mission & Outreach Ministry Team is charged with supporting the Westminster congregation in witnessing to the world about God's love, which we know through Jesus Christ, and in ministering to our neighbors, our community, and the world with imagination and courage. The M&O Ministry Team provides leadership to the congregation in relying on faith as the foundation and energy source for our good works, which we offer to God's glory in grateful response to God's abundant love and provision.

Our responsibilities fall into three areas: Evangelism, Social Justice and Philanthropy, and Communication.

As you can see below, we have a lot to celebrate from last year. However, as Laine heard recently, there's a reason your windshield is so much bigger than your rear-view mirror. Keep those eyes facing forward. We are looking forward to growing in number, spirit, and creativity

(quantity and quality—you can't beat that)! There will also be a focus on the Joe Gettys Scholarship special offering. It has been low compared to our other offerings, yet when we consider its purpose, where would we be without its namesake and those who benefit from the funds?! We can top \$500 this year; we just know it!



### Reason to Celebrate : Special Offerings!

	2024	2025
Souper Bowl of Caring:	\$942.00	\$1,019.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$620.00	\$1,190.40
Mother's Day Offering:	\$429.00	\$1,015.00
Camp Fellowship:	\$1,061.00	\$823.00
Joe Gettys Scholarship:	\$225.00	\$335.00
Turkeys for Thornwell:	\$485.00	\$525.00
Joy Offering:	\$385.00	\$595.00
<b>Total Special Offerings</b>	<b>\$4,157.00</b>	<b>\$5,502.40</b>

### Growing as a MATTHEW 25 CHURCH

Our Ministry Team and the Session leapt at this challenge in all three Core Pillars:

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.

- **Dismantling structural racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices, and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans, and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

If this sounds like a lot, it's because it is! The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team will be doubling down on our efforts to educate ourselves, the Session, the congregation, and our community on what it means to be a Matthew 25 Church with our words and our deeds. In 2026, we will seek to focus primarily on the first pillar, Congregational Vitality, remembering that when we grow as disciples, we will naturally move towards the acts of mercy and justice elevated by the other two pillars.



### **Outreach and Service to the Community:**

In 2025, we held an End of Life series hosted by various experts covering several topics: "Where is God at the End of Life?", "Walking Your Loved Ones Home" (led by our very own Dr. Nancy Hart Wicker!), "Celebrating Life: Making Funeral Plans," "Good Grief", and "Caring for Caregivers."

One of our newest members, Karl Schwarmann, jumped right in and got up to his

elbows in ...tacos! He heard the cry go out for people to feed the Emerald High School Marching Band during Band Camp and he had us answering in no time flat! He led us as we put together a taco bar for the students. You can't go wrong when your new members take on leadership roles.

Westminster is a true family, and families take care of their own. We spent a wonderful workday at the Alexanders'. If you need someone to drive your tractor, Bill Kimler is now an expert!

Speaking of Bill, our social media network has expanded to over 650 followers across four platforms! We even live streamed the flowering of the cross and the outside portion of our Christmas service!

Our church continued its growth as an all-inclusive community of Christ by joining Covenant Network of Presbyterians and More Light Presbyterians. Both organizations help churches connect with the LGBTQIA+ communities in a genuine way and help members of the community find churches who will welcome them with open arms.

### **Partnerships With and Support of WPC Committees and Groups**

We continued our partnership with Music and Worship through an extended and incredibly successful Worship on the Water. We also worked with Congregational Care and Fellowship to put on Dinner Church again this year. Presbyterian Women once again served dinner to the staff at the Free Clinic.



## Partnerships With Mission Partners

Our partnership with the Toddler Learning Center continues, and we revel in their success and growth! We watched the first TLC graduating class through the proud eyes of family.

We made sandwiches at Dinner Church for the Greenwood Soup Kitchen/ Food Pantry and continued our food and supply drive for them, as well.

This time with the Healthy Learner's Spelling Bee, we thought ahead and collected money at Sunday Sustenance for buy backs to help us out in a pinch. Our team of Laine Horowitz, Autumn Mossman, Liz Watson, and Nancy Hart Wicker made it to the last round, went out on a word almost everybody went out on, (OK, so we had a LOT of money for buybacks thanks to donations), and probably had more fun than just about any team there.



Becca Dobbins, a staff member of Thornwell and a friend to Westminster and asked us to come help Thornwell with their mission to help United Way deliver meals in Laurens County. We went up on two Tuesdays: one day we bagged the meals, and one day we went to a mobile distribution site. Our active involvement in missions is helping our team grow!

WPC is good at jumping on an opportunity! When Spears Alexander fondly remembered caroling in his childhood church and agreed to arrange for the church to sing at Wesley Commons, a multi-generational group quickly formed and joyfully sang, to the pleasure of a room full of residents, our own Mary Corley included.

M & O of course, partnered with MEGS House for our Angel Tree. All angels were immediately taken and all presents returned. A community's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. A mother and daughter were able to have a wonderful Christmas through the growing vitality of our congregation. What a way to end a Mission and Outreach Annual Session Report!



# Congregational Care and Fellowship

*Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."*  
John 21:16

## Rob Graves, Chair

### Ministry Team Members:

- Josh Wicker
- Nancy Dozier
- Kathleen Watkins
- Mary Ann Wilson
- Theresa Jacobs
- Mary Rogers

The Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry Team focuses on sharing the love of Jesus Christ to those among us... visitors, friends, and members.

We know that Jesus loved to eat with disciples, rich folk, poor folk, tax collectors and sinners, dear friends and family. So do we! So, food is big part of the work of the CC&F Ministry Team.

In 2025, our team worked with individuals, other ministry teams, and small groups such as Presbyterian Women and Brown Bags and Books to provide table fellowship monthly at our Sunday Sustenance meals, special receptions for graduates, new babies, and



newlyweds, a brand new Pride gathering in June, and a bereavement brunch in November. The team kicked off 2025 with an all-church breakfast in partnership with Nurture and Education to promote

engagement in small groups and worked with Mission and Outreach and Music and Worship to host our three Dinner Church gatherings in June, July, and August.

Our team makes sure that the kitchen is stocked with materials needed to prepare and serve meals and oversees spaces used for fellowship, including the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen.

Our men enjoy getting together for table fellowship at Greenwood lunch spots each Wednesday at noon for Westminster Wednesdays. From time to time, Presbyterians Pop Up for an outing. This year, a highlight was a trip to Greenville in September to see the play "Come from Away," participate in the talk back with Caroline and Phillip Dennis, and conclude with dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Our team also makes sure that folks who are ailing have the sustenance they need by bringing meals or groceries, and the good food of friendship through a listening ear, a warm hand to hold, or a shoulder to cry on. Our Ministry Team also helps members stay connected by reaching out to members who can't be with us in person, checking in on members and friends we haven't seen in a while, and helping new members find their place in the community. This year this ministry team collaborated with Music and Worship to extend the Communion Table by taking home communion to members and friends who are not able to worship with us in person.



Our team works with the pastor to keep the prayer list up to date and encourage individual intercessory prayers or gathering for weekly prayers via Zoom.

Our Church Mice know that everyone likes to get a special note on their birthday, so they take care of that. We also believe it is important to teach the children to participate in acts of service. Our children love coming up to help set up Sunday Sustenance. On Mondays, Sanctuary flowers are rearranged and delivered to friends and members as a greeting from the church.

In 2025 our ministry team was pleased to see our team of Sunday Sustenance helpers grow and diversify, help coordinate snacks for Vacation Bible Camp.

In 2026 the CC&F Ministry Team hopes to continue building friendships as we show up for one another in times of need, celebrate with one another in times of joy, share simple meals when we gather, and go out on adventures together, always growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.



## NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Tina Corley, Chair

### Ministry Team Members

- Kathy West
- Kathy Gillespie
- Rob Graves
- Oliver Danner
- Nicole McCarson
- Ginny Cartee
- Mary Frances Thompson

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*  
*Proverbs 1:7*

The mission of the Nurture & Education Ministry Team is to provide Christian education for nurturing spiritual growth in the entire church family at every age and stage. Life-long faith formation equips God's people to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and live according to God's will.

The Nurture and Education Ministry Team met regularly and planned for studies and education events for children, youth, and adults. In 2025 we were excited to see growth of disciples of every age across through Nurture and Education offerings and partnerships with other Ministry Teams, including:

- ❖ Sunday School hour for children, youth, and adults.
- ❖ College Age Students attend Montreat College Conference
- ❖ Vacation Bible Camp with children ages 4 - 12 participating.
- ❖ Monday Evening BEMA Podcast Discussion Group (Bible study)
- ❖ Wednesday Evening Books and Brown Bags (topical study)
- ❖ Monthly meetings of our Presbyterian Women
- ❖ Seven Part End of Life Seminar Series
- ❖ Welcome to WPC Class

## Children's Ministry

Kathy Gillespie coordinates our children's ministry. The children's ministry team includes Kathy Gillespie, Kathy West, Kathleen Watkins, Denise Waldrep, Rob Graves, Tina Corley, Mary Frances Thomson, and Karl Schwarzmann. These volunteers enjoy partnering with our childcare workers, Oliver Danner and Ellery DeRosa to care for the children in Sunday School. Oliver and Ellery also assist families in worship. Oliver moved on to full time life in Columbia this summer, and Ellery completed her student teaching and secured a position in Columbia, at the end of the year. We wish them both the very best and continue to be grateful for the impact they have had on young and old alike.

Families are nourished in faith through Child Care, Sunday School, KITS (kids in the sanctuary packets) that enhance the worship experience for young worshippers and their families, providing lectionary based child friendly activities related to the sermon.

Week by week this year, our children have read, discussed, written and illustrated a scripture verse in their Scripture Journal. They are taking these verses to heart! The year began with scriptures about love then in the summer we learned about the Apostle Paul and moved into the fall with the rest of the congregation on a study of the nine Fruits of the Spirit. We always like to connect the children with what the adults are doing, so they were excited to weave tartans for our first ever Wee Kirking Sunday! Our children took a trip around the world learning about Christmas customs in other lands, some, like the evergreen tree which have made it into our celebrations.

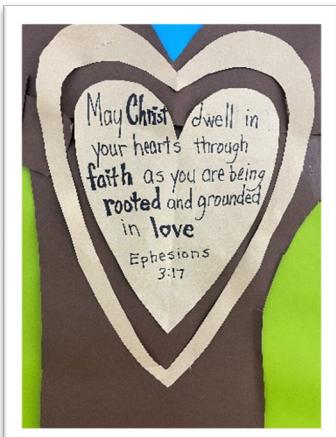
The children enjoy serving their church. This year they have made and installed bookmarks for our new hymnals reinforcing their lessons on worship, baked cookies and gave them to congregation members as a lesson on the fruit of the Spirit, generosity, and assisted with Sunday Sustenance set up each month.



This ministry team also coordinates special events for the children like our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible Camp. Children from the Toddler Learning Center and First Presbyterian Ware Shoals joined us for the Easter Egg Hunt this year and we made a new friend from First Ware Shoals at Vacation Bible Camp where the theme was "Let Love Grow: Stories from the Faith Family Tree".

## Youth Ministry and College Ministry

This year, our youth have been engaged in intergenerational worship and have been welcomed to join our Sunday morning children's class. A small and mighty contingent of college students attended the College Conference in January at Montreat. Rainbow Fellowship, our college ministry with LGBTQ+ students finished the school year strong with a graduation sermon offered by Oliver Danner. The group enjoyed a small reunion in November, hosting a Thanksgiving Day meal.



## Adult Ministry

Our Sunday Study Teaching team for 2025 included Claire Kuhl, Beth Hammond, Len Bornemann, Steve Kuhl, Spears Alexander, Caroline Dennis, Brian Purcell, Tim Rogers, and David Grier. This year the group studied several books of the Bible including James and Hebrews, enjoyed Lent and Advent video studies and spent some time with a PCUSA study from the Present Word. In the late summer and early fall, we offered a six-week series for new members which was well received and kicked off the program year with a wildly successful engagement with Science and Faith led by Claire and Steve Kuhl and special guest speakers along the way!



Reverend Caroline Dennis has been facilitating our Brown Bags and Books discussion group on Wednesday nights where they have enjoyed discussing, Inspired by Rachel Held Evans, God, Pandemics and the Holocaust by Cliff Cain, The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis, A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle, Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer, Theo of Golden by Allen Levi, and How to Know a Person by David Brooks. The group is always keen to serve, helping to set up for our College of Elders, providing a simple soup supper for our Healing and Wholeness service, and hosting a Christmas Gathering at the Puppet Place in December.



Gloria and Luke Christie continue to facilitate our BEMA Podcast Discussion Group on Monday nights, almost finishing season three and the gospel of Matthew by the end of the year. In addition to faith arousing and knowledge deepening discussions, the group enjoys times of fellowship and celebration, recognizing birthdays, holidays, and milestones in their study. The group has made it a practice to gather an offering at their celebrations to benefit a local ministry partner.

Beth Hammond serves as moderator of Presbyterian Women.. PW meets on the first Tuesday of the month for lunch, fellowship, business, and Bible study. This year they are using the PCUSA Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. The group collaborates with our Congregational Care and Fellowship Team to provide for receptions and bereavement meals at church and contributes to service projects at church and in the community. This year they provided meals to the medical team at Greater Greenwood United Ministry one evening each week in December and provided funds for the removal of a tree in the courtyard.

## Looking Ahead

Our team gives thanks for our leader Tina Corley whose term has concluded and look forward to welcoming our new team leader, Ginny Cartee, who brings experience and energy, faith and imagination for what could be in a church growing in number, diversity, and spirit!



## See What God is Growing at Westminster!

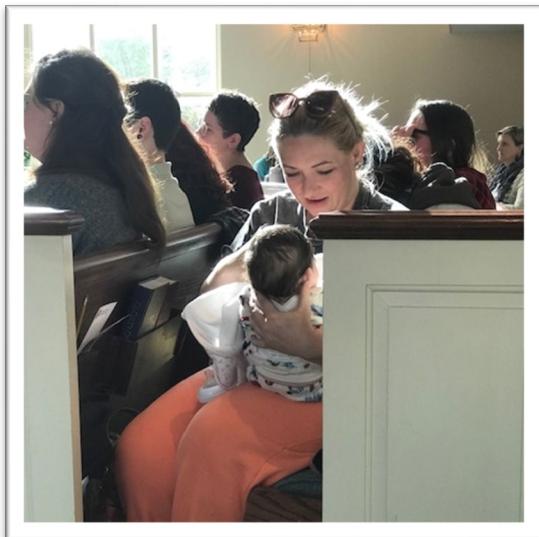


Eighteen New Members (Tim and Mary Rogers, Ginny and Marvin Cartee, Gloria Christie, presented by Elder Luke Christie, Luann Bell, Karl Schwarzmann, David Alexander, Robyn and Paul Agnew, Richard and Wendy Whiting, David Grier, Kaitlin Burton, Samantha Hefty, Doris McInnes, Mary Frances Thompson, and Tori Miller) found their way to Westminster in 2025.

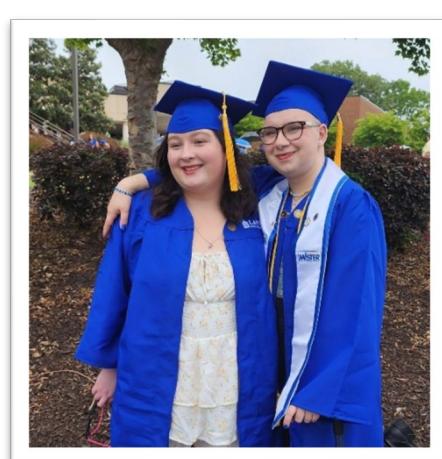
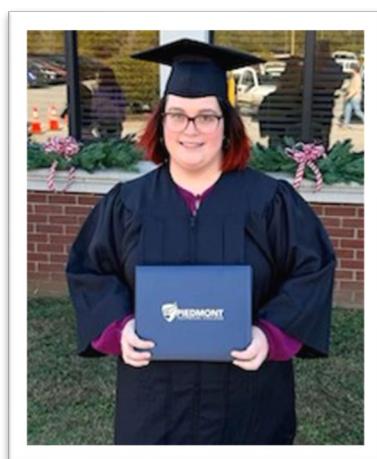
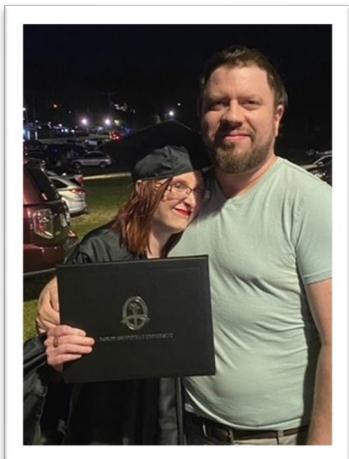




Three New Babies joined our church family in 2025: Adrienne Louise Harrison (granddaughter of Caroline and Phillip Dennis), James Daniel (son of Office Manager, Charleston Warner), and Esme Grace Autry (daughter of Curtis Autry and Heather McDonald), each one anticipated, celebrated, and welcomed by their church family.



And... we celebrated Four Graduates!  
Autumn Mossman, Ellery Derosa, Oliver Danner, and Kaitlin Burton





David Bell and Luann Sellers  
were wed in May.

Two New Elders (Bill Kimler and Luke Christie) were ordained and installed in January.

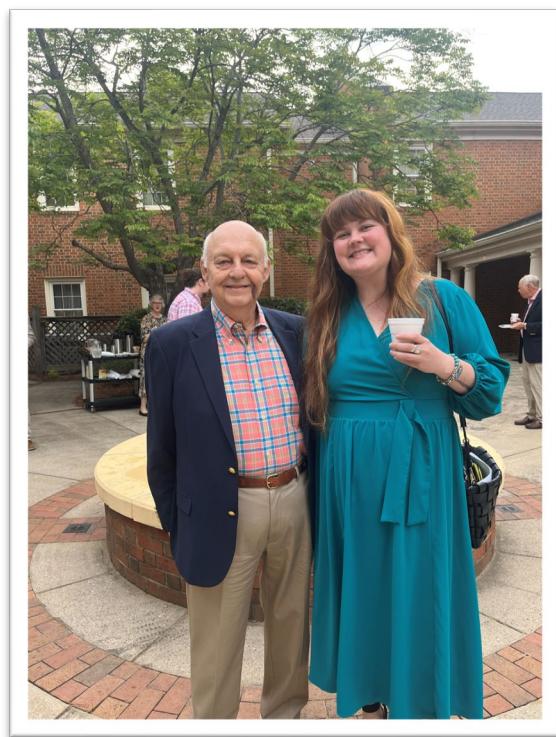
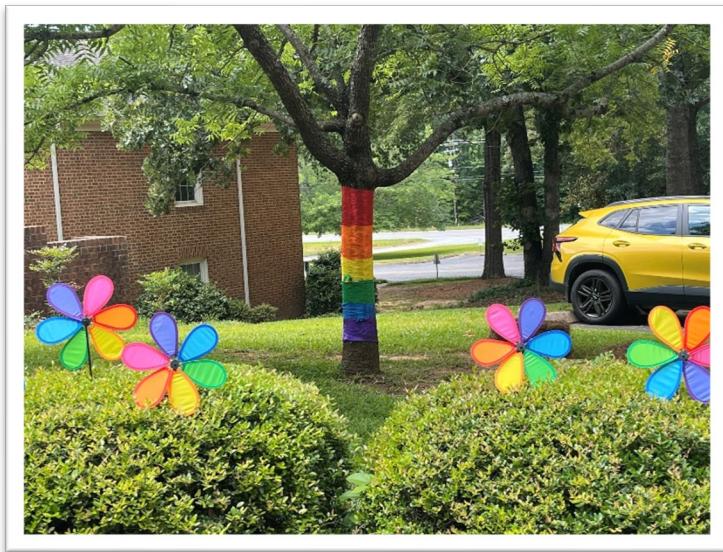
Our beloved Len Bornemann, church builder, Sunday School teacher, and treasurer, pictured here with his wife Lynn and grandson's Mays and Owen, entered the church triumphant in November.



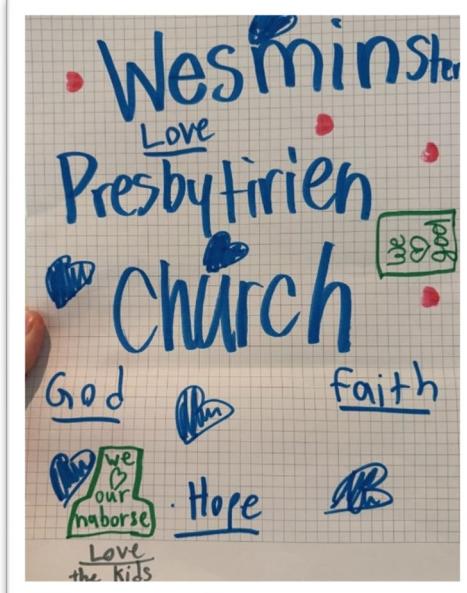


Serving with joyful hearts!









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

Clerk of Session

Claire Kuhl

Treasurer

David Hammond

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

### RULING ELDERS

Class of 2026

Laine Horowitz  
 Richard Wilson

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