

## *I Do Love to Be Beside the Seaside!*

Dear Westminster@Home,

My Facebook feed tells me that many of my friends and acquaintances have found their way to the water this summer. Strolling, sailing, skiing, reading, fishing, surfing, castle building. The water calls to us, invigorates us, renews us. Memories are made. Traditions are passed on. Stories are told.



I am reminded as I read through the gospel of Matthew that so much of Jesus' life was lived by the water, along the river Jordan, by the Sea of Galilee. It was there that he was baptized. It was there that he called some of his disciples and promised them that they would become fishers of people. It was there where Jesus retreated to a boat, for a nap... or the space from which to teach.

This summer, I hope you will find some time to come to the water. Allow yourself to be concerned only with the news of whether the fish are biting, when the tide is high, or what critter was found on an afternoon stroll. We have been much attuned to the news of the world. Our souls are hungry for the rest and renewal, and the time with Jesus that we can



find at the water. Perhaps when our souls are rested and renewed, when our worries have washed away, we can hear Jesus calling, Jesus promising, Jesus teaching. Perhaps then we will be ready to follow again, trust again, learn again.

Jesus said to his friends, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew

11:28) If Jesus has seemed distant to you, my friends, take some time to come to the waters. I believe you will find him there, and he will give you the rest that you may not even know you need.

There will be time to get back to work, to take up the yoke that Jesus offers to share with us, but first, come to the waters and accept the rest that Jesus offers us so that we might emerge as Jesus did from the waters of his baptism, confident of God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's provision for the road ahead.

Your pastor and friend,

*Caroline*

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## Westminster Happenings

**Sunday  
July 5** | ***With a Song in Our Hearts: What a Friend We have in Jesus***  
† Matthew 11:16-19  
† Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
Worship at 10:00 A.M. via WPC live streaming on our website.  
Spend time in worship and prayer with your friends wherever you are.

**Sunday  
July 12** | ***With a Song in Our Hearts: In the Garden***  
† Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23  
† Isaiah 55:10-13  
Worship at 10:00 A.M. via WPC live streaming on our website.  
Listen for God's voice as he walks with you in the garden and anywhere.  
**Stated Session Meeting**  
4:00 P.M. via Zoom  
Conduct the business of the church in the context of unfolding events.

**Wednesday  
July 15** | **Wednesday Evening Study Group: Matthew 25**  
Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.  
Kick off a new offering from Nurture & Christian Education (*next page*).

**Sunday  
July 18** | ***With a Song in Our Hearts: God Will Take Care of You***  
† Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43  
† Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Worship at 10:00 A.M. via WPC live streaming on our website.  
Put your trust in the One who never fails you.

**Wednesday  
July 22** | **Wednesday Evening Study Group: Matthew 25, *continued***  
Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.  
Continue our exploration of what it means to be a Matthew 25 church.

**Sunday  
July 26** | ***[Virtual] Joint Service with Ware Shoals Presbyterian***  
Look for details in upcoming *Come Sunday* enews and on our website.

**Wednesday  
July 29** | **Wednesday Evening Study Group: Facing Racism**  
Facilitated discussion via Zoom at 7:00 P.M.  
Begin a new, timely social justice study from PC(USA).

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### With a Song in Our Hearts, if Not on Our Lips

*"...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*Ephesians 5:18b-20*

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## Sunday Study Moves to Wednesdays



The logistics of live-streaming our Sunday morning worship make it particularly awkward to convene for virtual Sunday Studies at the usual 9:00 hour. So the Nurture & Christian Education Committee has decided to try something new—a Wednesday evening Zoom session. Everyone can participate. All you need is a link to the Zoom event (which will be provided in a future *Come Sunday* enews) and about an hour of your time, starting at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays.

The kick-off materials come from PC(USA) and provide background and theological reflection for the denomination-wide Matthew 25 vision and initiative (*see below*). Kathy Gillespie will facilitate the first session on July 15, and Claire Kuhl will wrap it up the following week.

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## Becoming a Matthew 25 Church

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so that our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor.

Toward that end, PC(USA) has been building a denomination-wide initiative for a network of committed Matthew 25 Churches. Many churches have already signed on for this initiative. The denomination's aim is to help multiply this loving commitment to radical and fearless discipleship by partnering with mid councils and congregations to help them embrace one or more of these three focus areas:

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- **Dismantling structural racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



Your Missions & Outreach and Nurture & Christian Education Committees will be working with the Pastor and Session for the remainder of this year to discern whether committing to this initiative is something that Westminster should do at this time. As Caroline noted in a recent presentation to the M&O group, “While our church’s mission and outreach efforts regularly address similar issues, a perceived value of officially joining the Matthew 25 roster is that it connects us with other congregations and focuses our attention more specifically. And the goal is not necessarily for us to start new projects, but rather to learn to see the intertwined nature of the three core issues (i.e., church vitality, racism, poverty).”

To learn more about becoming a Matthew 25 church, visit:  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>.

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## Westminster Spotlight: Welcome Confirmands!

June 7<sup>th</sup> was a *very* big day in the life of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We celebrated Trinity Sunday, live and in person, *and* received the first class of new confirmands since our re-formation. These young people have been on a quest together for many months now, seeking to answer big questions about who God is, what Church is, and who they are in relationship with God and Church.

In addition to probing these deep issues, our youth have also grown together in grace through shared meals, service projects, and yes—some silly fun! In the spirit of savoring the silly side, our three confirmands responded to our usual questions. Enjoy getting to know Dashe, Jacob, and Neveah. And remember, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, we have promised “to guide and nurture [them] by word and deed, with love and prayer!”



### Neveah Sholar

**1. What gives you joy?** My family gives me joy (*see photo at left—clockwise from top right, Dad Ody, little sister Gemma, Neveah, Mom Jennifer, and baby brother John*).

**2. What drives you crazy?** My little sister, Gemma, drives me crazy.

**3. What's your favorite piece of music?** I don't have a favorite piece or type of music. I like all music.

**4. What's your favorite thing to do in your spare time?** In my spare time, I like to watch movies or take naps.

**5. What's your favorite meal?** Pizza!

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### Dashe Case

**1. What gives you joy?** Sleep, Mom (*see photo at right*), and my boyfriend.

**2. What drives you crazy?** Rude people, homophobic people, not being able to talk to my boyfriend.

**3. What's your favorite thing to do when you have spare time?** Sleep, make videos, and *especially*, talk to my boyfriend!

**4. What's your favorite meal?** Anything, as long as it's not deadly.



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## Welcome Confirmands, *continued*

### Jacob Dennis

**1. What gives you joy?** Singing and playing games with my family (*see photo at right: from left to right, Mom Caroline, Jacob, Dad Phillip*).

**2. What drives you crazy?** I really don't have something that drives me crazy.

**3. What's your favorite piece of music?** I don't have one.

**4. What's your favorite thing to do in your spare time?** Text Madison and be with family.

**5. What's your favorite meal?** Anything Mom cooks.



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## You Say It's Your Birthday!

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



- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> – Dashe Case
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> – Beth Hammond
- ❖ 5<sup>th</sup> – Neveah Sholar
- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> – Deb Jones
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> – Caroline Dennis

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

- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fred & Louise Taber
- ❖ 7<sup>th</sup> – Mac & Holly Hubbard

*Send your family's special dates to [wpcgwd1@gmail.com](mailto:wpcgwd1@gmail.com) or call 864.229.3595.*

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## The Lord Loveth a Cheerful Giver

Westminster is blessed to have *many* cheerful givers! Please remember to mail in your check for His tithes and your offerings:

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2330 Cokesbury Road  
Greenwood, SC 29649

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## Are you a Sage or a Guide? N&CE Needs Both!

As many educators will tell you, there are two contrasting approaches you might use in promoting group learning:

- You can be a **sage on the stage**—one who is the master of the material, well-qualified and able to deliver the information in a way that is meaningful and sticks with those who hear what you have to say.
- Or you can be a **guide on the side**—one who isn't necessarily the sole holder of knowledge, but is willing and able to facilitate the process of exploring and learning new things *together*.



Kathy Gillespie, Nurture & Christian Education Chair, is hoping to find new guides to help with our Wednesday Night Study series: "You certainly don't need to be an expert to lead our informal studies. We'll provide materials and moral support to everyone who will help us!" If you are interested in taking a turn as a guide, please contact Kathy at [Gillespiekat53@gmail.com](mailto:Gillespiekat53@gmail.com).

Of course, if you *happen* to be a sage, we'll gladly involve you as well!!

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## On the Church in This Moment in History: Responding to the Sin of Racism

**For more information about the recent meeting of the PC(USA) General Assembly, visit the website:** <https://www.pcusa.org>.

“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
You shall raise up the foundations of  
many generations;  
  
You shall be called the repairer of the  
breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

~Isaiah 58:12

“This 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) declares that Black lives matter; that our country’s most important institutions have been built to sustain white privilege, to protect white lives and white property at the expense of our siblings of color; and that the church, through ignorance, denial, and in some cases deliberate action, has participated in this injustice. We have been slow to face the reality of systemic racism. We have been slow to acknowledge the pain of our fellow Presbyterians, of our fellow Christians, of our fellow citizens, and of those who have come to America for a better life, whose value has been judged by the color of their skin. We pledge to join hands and hearts with our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) siblings to actively confront and dismantle systemic racism in our church and in society at large, and to work for a more just, merciful, and peaceful country that allows all of God’s children to flourish.”

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Part of a series on mental health issues

## Feeling Lonely? You Aren’t Alone in That!

Excerpted from [www.careingbridge.core/resources/how-to-cope-with-loneliness](http://www.careingbridge.core/resources/how-to-cope-with-loneliness).

According to a study done in 2018 by Cigna, a major US health insurer, nearly half of Americans reported feeling lonely. And that was *before* COVID-19 concerns forced us into lock-downs and social distancing.



**If you are feeling isolated, know first and foremost that your church family *cares* and is just a phone call, text, email, or smoke-signal away! Let us hear from you.**

Remember that you actually *can* spend time with those who love you, even if only virtually. It’s amazing how much fun a simple phone chat can be. Using technologies like Face Time or Zoom can help. Or armed with masks and maintaining social distance, you might meet a friend at an outdoor park for a good conversation.



Even if you aren’t interacting directly with someone else, you can feel less lonely by focusing on making someone *else* feel more connected, for example, by writing notes. Consider the ancient wisdom of Saint Francis of Assisi: “For it is in giving that we receive.”

Scientific research provides compelling data to support the anecdotal evidence that *giving* is a powerful pathway to personal growth and lasting happiness. Experiments show evidence that altruism is hardwired in the brain—and it’s pleasurable.

Helping others may just be the secret to living a life that is not only happier but also healthier, more meaningful, and much less lonely.



## Presenting...Camp in a Box!

COVID-19 has presented us all with many challenges—and also with also many opportunities to find new ways of connecting. For Camp Fellowship’s leaders, the pandemic presented one of the most difficult decisions of their professional life: what do we do about summer camp?

Recognizing that it would not be responsible to hold residential summer programs as usual, the always-creative camp staff set out on an exciting mission to completely *re-imagine* summer camp. And so they created **Camp in a Box**. Each DIY camp-at-home package includes:

- Bible study guide
- Nature activity
- Game instructions
- Music & book resources
- Table-talk cards
- Craft supplies
- Access to unique online content
- Limited edition camp swag



Camp Fellowship is sending one to *every* Camper Family that attended in 2019 *and* to other families who want to engage in easy “camp-style” faith-formation and summer family fun!

We are asking churches and individuals to help underwrite this programming by donating funds to provide these boxes **free of charge** to:



1. Camper Families who attended Camp Fellowship in 2019.
2. Families of Camp-aged (K-12th grade) children and youth in your congregation, if they attended or not.
3. Camp-aged children in the communities we serve who may not be connected with any congregation.

Westminster, collectively and individually, has strongly supported this program. All of our youth received boxes (*see happy camper above right*). And several sets of loving grandparents made sure their grandchildren were all equipped for a fun and faith-filled summer.

For more information and to donate online, visit <https://www.campfellowship.org/>.

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## Let Us Pray...



### **For Those in Our Church**

*We lift our prayers for those dealing with health issues, including especially:*

- Kathy Felder
- Lynn Bornemann
- Mary Corley
- Larry Dozier
- Laine Horowitz
- Lucia Horowitz
- Fred Taber
- Hamp and Elizabeth Watkins
- Charles Wendell Green, Tracy Rainey's brother

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”*

*1 John 5:14*

*We pray with joy and gratitude for our newly confirmed members, Dashe, Neveah, and Jacob, and for the new infants in our midst: Macie Hale Watkins and Ellison Olivia Hobson.*

*We pray for those who are caregivers for friends and family.*

*We pray daily for our prayer partners and the special concerns on their heart.*

*We pray for the ministries of our church, especially:*

- Quest: Youth
- Prison Ministry
- Thornwell Home
- Greenwood Place
- NAMI
- Camp Fellowship
- Greenwood Food Pantry
- Greater Greenwood United Ministries



### **For Those in Our Hearts**

*We pray for these members of our wider community:*

- Charles Alexander
- Sissy Brockenbrough
- Tom & Lucia Bryson
- Ashlyn Buchanan
- Ronnie Case
- Clara Costello
- Scott Crandall
- Debbie Dill
- Kiersty Duncan
- Charlotte Gero
- Betty Gossam
- Dee Greene
- Lois & Bob Grice
- Jimmy Hughes
- Norma Hoviss
- Di Litwer
- Ashley Mahon
- Bill & Suzy Mitchell
- Margaret Rada
- Terrance Reece
- Howard Thomas
- Jack Waldrup
- Ed Watkins
- Frank & Karen Whitt
- Jeff Williams
- Sarah Willis



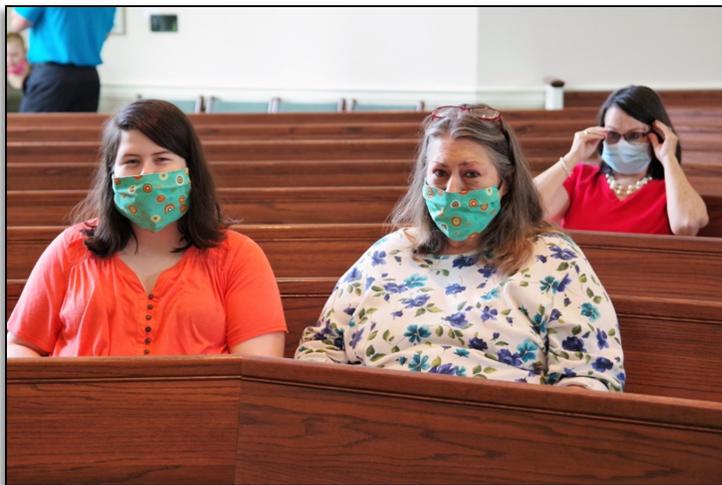
### **For the World**

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

- For all those everywhere affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- For compassionate and wise discernment for all leaders and decision-makers
- For wisdom, strength, and peace for those who have answered the call to service
- For those seeking work
- For those living with mental illness
- For our enemies
- For the Gartrell family, our mission partners in Brazil

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# Love Thy Neighbor—Wear Thy Mask



## And God Saw That It Was Good!



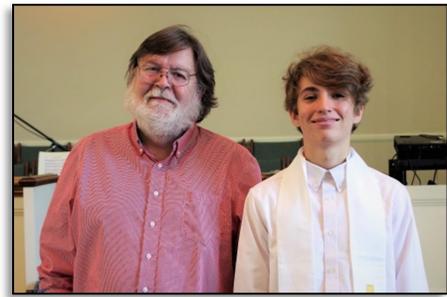
*The congregation turned out virtually to vow our support for those baptized and confirmed during lock-down.*



*Thanks to Beth Hammond, our indicators for socially distanced seating looked like a wedding, not a quarantine.*



*Thanks to their HVAC going on the fritz, the Jacobs had to shelter in place at their farm. Bill reports that the cows are pretty good about maintaining social distance, as you can see, but hardly ever remember to wear their masks.*



*Each confirmand had a mentor: Arthur for Jacob, Claire for Dashe, and Kathy Felder for Neveah.*



*On two occasions, the pulpit was graced with rose buds honoring beautiful new children of God: Macie Hale Watkins, daughter of Hamp and Elizabeth, and sister to Callie Rose; and Ellison Olivia Hobson, granddaughter of Rick and Flora Hobson.*



*Our Pentecost service was immeasurably enhanced by celebration of two baptisms:  
John Royal Sholar and Neveah Shye Sholar*



*Callie shares her Kid's Faith & Fun work with Dad while he's in quarantine with COVID-19. Thanks to Lynn Bornemann for this wonderful new offering!*



*Congratulations to Martha Brothers for graduating her first senior class as Principal of Clinton High School! A great accomplishment—even more so in the midst of a global pandemic!*

**Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!**