



Children's Sabbath Sunday

The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

is called by God to be an inclusive community of faith,
abiding in God's love, and committed to:

Enjoying God, Following Jesus, and Growing Disciples

You Are Welcome Here:

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. We pray you experience our joyful welcome and God's peaceful presence as you worship with us today.

Questions about Westminster? Just ask! Any one of us would be glad to help.

The Sanctuary is a Place of Reverence and Worship

In order that our worship might be meaningful to all, please enter the sanctuary reverently. The narthex or courtyard are good places to visit with friends before or after worship. Use the moments before worship to prepare your heart, mind, and body for worship, centering yourself in the space and quieting your heart. It may be helpful to listen quietly to the prelude, find the hymns we will be singing, meditate on the scriptures we will be reading.

Children at Westminster:

Children are an integral part of our church family. We are glad when they come to worship God with us. In our midst, children learn our rhythms of worship, become knit into our fellowship, and teach us as surely as we are teaching them.

Please take children to the restroom before worship. If you need to leave the sanctuary during worship, please use the exits at the rear of the sanctuary. We ask that families sit together during worship and that no child move unaccompanied through the building.

Children's worship packets are available on the front pew and are given out after *The Time With All Gods Children*. Children first grade and up (by age or development) are encouraged to remain in worship.

Children in kindergarten and younger (by age or development) may depart with our caregivers and teachers for the nursery or remain with their parents for worship if they choose. If this is your first visit to Westminster, you are welcome to accompany your child to Children's Sunday School so that you can meet our caregivers and help settle your child in.

A brochure regarding our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult protection policy is available in the narthex.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God**

October 18, 2026
Children's Sabbath

WE GATHER IN GOD'S WORD

Chiming the Hour

Prelude

Words of Scripture

Matthew 19:13-15

Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, **“Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”** And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Prayer for the Children

God of welcome and blessing, today you bring the children to us,
that we might bless them.

Bring the children of our family into our hearts. *Breathe*

Bring the children of our church into our hearts. *Breathe*

Bring the children of Greenwood into our hearts. *Breathe*

Bring the children of the nations into our hearts. *Breathe*

We pause to become aware of the children.

Use our hands, our words, our labors to bless the children with safe homes and warm friendships, clean water and healthy food, the opportunity to learn and to grow, that they might come to live in the kingdom you have prepared for them and for us.

In the name of your child, Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Adapted from Psalm 150

Praise the Lord! Praise God in the sanctuary!

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord above us! Under us!

Before us! After us!

Between us! Beside us!

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord with flute and drum!

Praise the Lord with tambourine and dance!

Praise the Lord with strings and with pipe!

Praise the Lord with cymbals! With loud, clashing cymbals.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

*Hymn #63

“The Lord Is God”

AZMON

The Lord Is God

63

1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
3 At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part,
4 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise

to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
O chil - dren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.

This hymn paraphrases the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4–9), an ancient and central affirmation of Jewish monotheistic faith that observant Jews still recite twice a day. Jesus knew it well and called it the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:38/ Mark 12:28–29/ Luke 10:26–28).

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2011
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

AZMON
CM

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, minds, soul and strength, and we have put our own comfort over the wellbeing of the little ones you have given into our care.

We pause for personal prayer.

Forgive us, Lord. Reform us that we may be lights reflecting your light, vessels pouring out your grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise

Hymn 647

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

*And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"*

*And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.*

*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 5:1-21

The Ten Commandments

5 Moses convened all Israel and said to them:

"Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today; you shall learn them and observe them diligently. ² The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. ³ Not with our ancestors did the Lord make this covenant but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴ The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the fire. ⁵ (At that time I was standing between the Lord and you to declare to you the word of the Lord, for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said:

⁶ “ ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ⁷ you shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁸ “ ‘You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

⁹ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me ¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation^[b] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹ “ ‘You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

¹² “ ‘Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.

Time with All God’s Children

Second Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The Great Commandment

⁶ “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ² so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.^[a] ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem^[b] on your forehead, ⁹ and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Talk About It”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

***Hymn #707**

“Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”

HALL

707 Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

1 Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we hum - bly pray;
 2 Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
 3 Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
 4 Take thou our - selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;

give us the mind of Christ each pass - ing day;
 come thou with - in our souls and claim thy throne;
 have in our in - most souls thy per - fect way;
 through our sur - ren - dered souls thy plans ful - fill.

teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
 help us to shed a - broad thy death-less love;
 guard thou each sa - cred hour from self - ish ease;
 We yield our - selves to thee: time, tal - ents, all;

grant us in all our thoughts to hon - or thee.
 use us to make the earth like heaven a - bove.
 guide thou our or - dered lives as thou dost please.
 we hear, and hence - forth heed, thy sov - ereign call.

This hymn began with the tune, which the composer hummed to the author with a request for a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of young people. The text of the first three stanzas was written that day, and the fourth stanza later emerged at a youth conference.

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn #188**

“Jesus Loves Me”

JESUS LOVES ME

188

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to him be-long. They are weak, but he is strong.
tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Few songs of faith have supported people from cradle to grave like this one. The great theologian Karl Barth said that its opening two lines were a summary of all that he had learned. The composer formed the refrain from those lines when creating this universally used tune.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

[*All stand as they are able.]

The flowers today are given by David and Luann Bell in memory of their parents.

Serving Today at Westminster

Organist:	Claire Kuhl
Liturgist:	Gloria Christie
Host:	Wicker Family
Sunday Study:	Caroline Dennis
Children’s Sunday School	Kathy Gillespie

Today at Westminster

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys Room (<i>Adults</i>)
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children’s Wing (<i>Children and Youth</i>)
Worship	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children’s Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children’s Wing
Sunday Sustenance	11:15 am	Fellowship Hall

This Week at Westminster

Office Hours:	9:00 am– Noon	M-Th	
Zoom Prayer Time	Noon	Monday	Zoom
BEMA Discussion Group	6:00 pm	Monday	Joe Gettys Classroom
Books and Brown Bags	6:00 pm	Wednesday	Joe Gettys Classroom
PFLAG Meeting	6:00 pm	Thursday	Joe Getty’s Classroom
Parents’s Night Out Registration deadline		Friday, RSVP	gcartee600@gmail.com
TLC Pumpkin Carving		Friday	Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, October 25

Sunday Study	9:00 am	Joe Gettys Classroom (<i>Adults</i>)
Sunday School	9:00 am	Children’s Wing (<i>Children and Youth</i>)
Worship	10:00 am	Sanctuary
Children’s Nursery	10:00 am	Sanctuary and Children’s Wing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study Opportunities at Westminster

Sunday Adult Study: Join us for Adult Study this Sunday at 9:00 am in the Joe Gettys Room as we discuss chapters 1 and 2 of *Christian Prayer for Today* by Martha Moore-Keish. Books are available in the Joe Gettys Classroom.

Books and Brown Bags: Gatherings resume this Wednesday, October 21 with a facilitated discussion of the Enneagram. Please find details in your October edition of the Westminster Times.

Join **Mission & Outreach** on **Saturday, October 24th** for a special morning with the Burton Center Hometown Heroes, formerly known as Greenwood Miracle League. Volunteers will be paired with a player with special needs as their **buddy**, cheering them on, guiding them through the game safely, and helping make game day a joyful experience. **Please arrive by 9:15 AM and let Nancy Hart know if you plan on coming** via email (nhwicker@gmail.com) or text (843)991-7411, so we can let them know how many people to plan on.

Fall Festival Parents Night Out. While parents enjoy a quiet night out, we have a fun night planned for children and youth on Friday, October 30. Kids can be dropped off at 5:30 P.M., and activities (such as games, crafting, music, and a snack supper) continue until 8:30 P.M. Reserve a spot for your family no later than Friday, October 23 so the team will know the number of children to prepare for. Call the church office or email Ginny Cartee (gcartee600@gmail.com) to RSVP or if you would like to volunteer—in July, the adults had as much fun as the kids did!

Please help us **Treat the Children at Thornwell's Trunk or Treat.** Candy donations invited. We expect to treat 400 children at the Thornwell Trunk or Treat at 4:00 on Saturday, October 31. Please bring your candy donations to the Narthex on Sunday, October 18 and Sunday, October 24. If you would like to participate in person, please contact Kim Purcell (purcellk@gwd50.org) or Autumn Mossman (roryautumn@yahoo.com).

A Prayer of Confession for Children's Sabbath

We thank Mary Frances Thompson for this prayer which she adapted from "A Christian Prayer for Doing Good Works on Behalf of Our Children" from *Children's Defense Fund 2026 NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF CHILDREN'S SABBATHS MANUAL*, p.127. This weekend, Mary Frances is serving on a team for an Epiphany Weekend, a faith forming retreat for at risk youth.

Loving God, we are all your children, regardless of our age. You have shown us how loving parents care for their children. We confess that we fall short of giving such to our own children, much less to the children of the world. We confess that we have neglected our responsibility to make sure that no child goes hungry, to ensure all children have a safe place to live and play, and to ensure all children have access to good education, healthcare, and the joys of childhood.

God, we cannot do this alone, for this is work that must be done in community—in the community of our neighborhoods; the community of schools; the community of boardrooms and courthouses; the community of legislative halls regardless of political affiliation; and the community of not only our church, but of all churches and faith groups.

Forgive us where we have failed you and the children you have entrusted to our care. Convict us and give us the courage to act in all the communities of which we are a part. In Christ name and for the sake of all children everywhere, Amen



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

is called by God to be an inclusive community of faith, abiding in God's love and committed to enjoying God, following Jesus, and growing disciples.

Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. – Noon Office Phone: 864.229.3595
www.wpcgnwd.org wpcgwd1@gmail.com

Clerk of Session

Claire Kuhl

Treasurer

David Hammond

Office Manager

Charleston Warner

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2026

Laine Horowitz

David Grier

Class of 2027

Luke Christie

Bill Kimler

Class of 2028

Ginny Cartee

Rob Graves

Rev. Caroline Vinson Dennis, pastor

317.777.1487

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

CCLI License #2724601 and #20189191

The 10 Words & Hand Clues

Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5

1. I am your God. (God is #1)



2. Worship no Idols.
(2 fingers say 2 gods is too many!)



3. No wrongful use of God's name.
(Your fingers make a W...
Watch your Words!)



4. Remember the Sabbath.
(The thumb is resting like we
should on Sundays.)



5. Honor your parents.
(You're making a pledge to do this.)



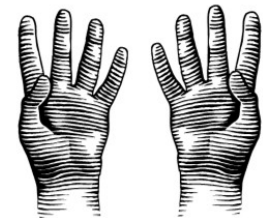
6. You shall not murder..
(One hand is shooting the other)



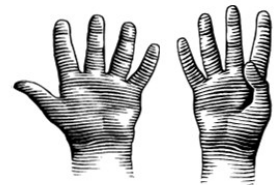
7. You shall not commit adultery.
(Two people getting married.)



8. You shall not steal.
(Looking through the jail bars!)



9. You shall not lie.
(The thumb is gossiping behind the
other fingers!)



10. You shall not covet.
(Wanting to grab what others have!)

