

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 26, 2026 |On Demand on YouTube|10a



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

“Another way that you love your enemy is this: When the opportunity presents itself for you to defeat your enemy, that is the time which you must not do it. There will come a time, in many instances, when the person who hates you most, the person who has misused you most, the person who has gossiped about you most, the person who has spread false rumors about you most, there will come a time when you will have an opportunity to defeat that person. It might be in terms of a recommendation for a job; it might be in terms of helping that person to make some move in life. That’s the time you must do it. That is the meaning of love. In the final analysis, love is not this sentimental something that we talk about. It’s not merely an emotional something. Love is creative, understanding goodwill for all men. It is the refusal to defeat any individual. When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems. Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love, but you seek to defeat the system.”

Martin Luther King, Jr., “*Loving Your Enemies*”
(1957, Dexter Ave. Baptist Church)

Gathering and Preparing for **God’s Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Prelude *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* arr. Monsell

* Call to Worship

Leader: With what shall we come before the Holy One,
and bow ourselves before God on high?

People: **Only to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God!**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 336 "We Gather Together" KREMSER

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you
with our whole heart or mind or strength.**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 GLORIA PATRI

***Glorry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism *David Cooper Bolton*
Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Genesis 27:30–35, 41* p. 21

Second Scripture Lesson, *Genesis 32:3–8, 33:1–11* p. 26

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Brothers"

Responding to **God’s Word**

* Affirmation of Faith

The 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 Ghost,
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 Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

Offering

Offertory *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* arr. Beck

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDTH

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

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 445 "God, How Can We Forgive" LEONI

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction

* Postlude *Toccatina* Simone

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Nick Carson, *liturgist*

Kathryn Freedman, *sponsor*

David Golladay, *scripture reader*

Allie Ablewood, *soloist*

Brad Hawkins, *head usher*

Judy O'Neal, Trey Morrow, Mason Donlan,

Amanda Warren, Josie Williams, *greeters*

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Prelude is the latest piano arrangement by Todd Monsell of hymns requested by WPC members and friends. *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* was requested by and is dedicated to Carole Doyle.

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caregiver and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

WORSHIP BAGS

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We will not have Children's Church from June 7-July 26. We will begin having Children's Church again on Sunday, August 2.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

CHORAL AND VOCAL TEXTS

Choral and vocal texts for worship services may be found via the Harbinger Hub QR code.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *David Cooper Bolton*, son of Kyle & Emma Bolton.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTHS

The birth of a son, Hampton Hilliard Carraway, to Adam & Neely Carraway, on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.

The birth of a daughter, *Caroline Greenbury Moore*, to Kyle & Sarah Moore, on Monday, June 29, 2026.

BINGO NIGHT - WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

WPC Kids presents its 3rd annual Bingo Night! On Wednesday, July 29, from 6-7:30p in the Fellowship Hall, all are invited – children, families, and children at heart – to a fun night of games, food, and prizes. A hotdog supper will be served. There is no cost, but please sign up using the Harbinger Hub link by Sunday, July 26.

HERITAGE LECTURE

Dr. Yolanda Pierce

Sunday, August 9

Education Lecture at 9a

Preaching Hour 10a

A GENTLE REMINDER

Summer is an opportunity for vacations, the beach, and time with family and friends. But even when we are away, the church remains active with our children and youth ministries going strong, the weekday school running throughout the summer, and numerous outside groups using our facilities. In addition, our mission partners depend on us all year long. If possible, we ask you to keep your giving up to date. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to God's work at Westminster.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
IT'S ELEMENTARY!

WPC's weekly after-school faith formation program, It's Elementary, begins in September. Each Wednesday afternoon from 2:15-4:30p, children in grades 1st-5th will grow in their faith, deepen their Bible knowledge, experience worship, and participate in witness and service learning. Volunteers are at the heart of It's Elementary! No teaching required - just helping hands, listening ears, and a joy for children. We are in need of volunteers who are able to donate their time each week or every other week to this special program. Sign up to volunteer in the Harbinger Hub.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 4, (6:30p) and the book reviewed will be *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* by Amy Bloom. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion. All are welcome to attend!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIVING CARDS

We acknowledge that faithful giving may be offered to Westminster Presbyterian Church in a variety of ways. If you give electronically or by other means, please feel free to place an Acknowledgement of Giving card—found in the Ritual of Friendship—in the offering plate as a sign of your worship and offering to God.

HARBINGER HUB:
ALL THE LINKS FROM TODAY'S
HARBINGER IN ONE PLACE.

Scan the QR code to explore and engage with this week's bulletin. You'll find links to events, registrations, ministries, and opportunities to grow and connect within Westminster.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY TOY DRIVE
FOR THE MAGI MARKET

Help stock the market in our first ever Christmas in July Toy Drive. Shop locally at The Elephant's Trunk and receive a 20% discount on toys for the Magi Market. Stop by the store anytime they are open and ask for Magi Market Shopping Guide for our toy wish list. Unwrapped toys can be brought to the church office or left at the store and we will pick up. We are so grateful for your support getting the Market stocked early! Visit the Harbinger Hub to learn more about the Magi Market.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER
GREENVILLE DRIVE SOCIAL

On August 20, the Men of Westminster will have our summer social at the Greenville Drive game. We have reserved a box to watch the game in style! Limited space available, tickets are \$25 each. Sign up on the Harbinger Hub.

IT'S ELEMENTARY REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN!

Member registration is now open for It's Elementary, our afterschool faith-formation program for children in 1st-5th grade! The program meets every Wednesday from 2:30-4:30p and begins September 2. Throughout the year, children will grow in their faith through engaging lessons, activities, and fellowship as we explore the Books of the Bible together. Non-member registration will open August 3. We look forward to another exciting year of learning and growing in God's Word. Be sure to register your child today through the Harbinger Hub!

SUMMER CHOIR RETURNS

Summer Choir returns on Sunday, August 2, and continues throughout the month. All who would like to sing are welcomed to join at 9a on Sundays in August in the Choir Room to rehearse a piece to be presented in the 10a service. There will be a Wednesday rehearsal in the Choir Room on August 5 from 7-8p to preview the pieces for the rest of the month. For additional information, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
July 26-August 2, 2026		
Sunday, July 26		
<i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i>		
<i>WPCYG - Montreat Youth Conference</i>		
9:40a	Weekly Session Meeting	
10:00	Worship Service	
11:00	Donut Reception	
Monday, July 27		
<i>WPCYG - Montreat Youth Conference</i>		
10:00a	Weekly Staff Meeting	
4:30p	Game Group	
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous	
Tuesday, July 28		
<i>WPCYG - Montreat Youth Conference</i>		
12:00p	Al-Anon	
Wednesday, July 29		
<i>WPCYG - Montreat Youth Conference</i>		
5:00p	Family Bingo Night	
Thursday, July 30		
<i>WPCYG - Montreat Youth Conference</i>		
8:00p	Narcotics Anonymous	
Friday, July 31		
<i>WPCYG - Montreat Youth Conference</i>		
Saturday, August 1		
<i>WPCYG - Montreat Youth Conference</i>		
Sunday, August 2		
<i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>		
9:00a	Summer Choir Rehearsal	
9:40	Weekly Session Meeting	
10:00	Worship Service w/communion	
11:00	Donut Reception	

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Charles Little

In the FIFA World Cup games played to date, including the disappointing US-Belgium contest, raw human emotions by the players and fans were on display. Both elation and utter disappointment with the final outcome was certain. Moreover, players were constantly challenging the match officials as they never believed they were the offending party and, seemingly, players hitting the ground often embellished the extent of any injury suffered. Not unlike in the scripture that we are studying, human emotions run rampant.

In Genesis Chapter 27 and verses 1-4, 30-35 & 41, the potential errancy of human decision selections unfold. Specific to these verses, Isaac’s wife Rebekah and their youngest son Jacob set out to deceive Isaac to have him bestow his patriarchal blessings to Jacob instead of to the elder son Esau. Esau was following his father’s instructions and returned to provide the requested meal and receive the blessings only to find that Isaac, who is blind, had unbeknownst to him given the blessing to Jacob. Consequently, Esau’s anger evoked a stated intent to kill his brother when his father died.

As noted, these verses represent but a part of the family saga. Not to get off script, but I am compelled to note the significance of Jacob receiving the blessing, as he became a part of the lineage that led to the birth of Jesus! Moreover, scripture notes that Rebekah was told by the Lord, when her prayer to be blessed with children was answered, that the younger would rule over his older brother.

I must admit I was more than challenged to discern all the truths that these passages conveyed. At its core, human frailties are a dominant message. From deception to the threat of retribution, mere mortals constantly make poor decisions. Words are spoken and actions taken that are later regretted. Divine intervention is of paramount importance, as the phrase we humans often use, “father knows best,” is clearly applicable relative to our relationship with God as we observe the chaos in this family’s individual lives. Thankfully, the sovereignty of our God reigns supreme.

Praise be to God!!