



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises. Where we have been weak, grant us your strength; where we have been confused, grant us your guidance; where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort; where we have been dead, grant us your life. Apart from you, O Lord, we are nothing; in and with you we can do all things. Amen.

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 Cantabile in C Knecht

* Call to Worship Psalm 105

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

People: Sing to God, sing praises to God, tell of all God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

People: God brought God's people out with joy, that they might keep God's statutes and observe God's laws.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HYMN TO JOY

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
we know that our fear often gets the better of our faith.
You ask us to love our neighbors,
but we question whether you mean all neighbors.
You open your heart wide with grace,
but we make judgments about who truly deserves grace.
You speak the truth in love to us,
but we respond by deceiving ourselves
and following false gods.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Set us free from a past we cannot change,
and open us to a future in which we can be changed,
so that by your Spirit, we would grow more and more
into the likeness and love of Christ, through whom we pray.
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

Glory 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.

Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson, Psalm 27

p. 437

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Hurry Up and Wait"

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 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr. Martin

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDT

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 643 "Now Thank We All Our God" NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 748 "Go with Us, Lord" TALLIS' CANON

* Postlude I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing Hayes

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Yolanda Pierce, Heritage Lecturer

Ben Dorr, liturgist

Summer Choir

Brad Hawkins, head usher

Carrie Marguet, Brooke Culclasure, Christopher Carsten,

Ben Dillard, Denise Broderick, greeters

Manning Dailey, acolyte

WORSHIP NOTES

WELCOME TO WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

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.

CHORAL AND VOCAL TEXTS

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

GIVING TO WPC

Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge or give an unpledged gift to Westminster online? Your gift helps our church keep faith with community partners and maintain excellence in our programming. To learn more about online giving, or to make a gift, follow the prompts by using the new Harbinger Hub QR code.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday morning Bible study will resume on August 13 at 10a in the Charter Room. Ben and the pastoral staff lead discussions about the upcoming Sunday's scripture texts. All are welcome!

DAY OF SERVICE

Mark you calendars for our annual Day of Service, benefiting our Witness and Service Partners on August 29, 8a-12p. Sign up in the Harbinger Hub. Reach out to Nick Carson with any questions.

2026 HERITAGE LECTURER



Join us this Sunday, August 9, to hear Dr. Yolanda Pierce at the 10a worship service. She will also lead an Educational Hour at 9a in Room 209.

Yolanda Pierce is Dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School and the University Distinguished Professor of Religion & Literature. As a first-generation college student, Pierce earned degrees from Cornell University and Princeton University. Her scholarly research specialties include African American religious history; womanist theology; and race and religion. An accomplished administrator in higher education and a widely published writer, Pierce is a native New Yorker, public theologian, community activist, and ordained minister.

We Remember in Prayer

Geoff & Rebecca Traeger on the death of their son, Jackson Traeger, on Sunday, July 26, 2026.

Brock Koonce on the death of his mother, Susan Schwab, on Saturday, August 1, 2026.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTHS

The birth of a son, Ashby Samuel Herndon, to Wes & Peyton Herndon, on January 20, 2026.

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, August 1, 2026, Margaret Manning and Price Kmetz were united in marriage at Westminster.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, August 19, at 12:30p. Location will be announced. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

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.

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.

CHILDCARE FOR SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS

If you would like to participate in Sanctuary Choir and need childcare to do so, childcare may be made available for the mid-week rehearsals which occur each Wednesday from 7-8:30p, commencing on August 26. If interested, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music by no later than Monday, August 17.

SECOND ANNUAL FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY HYMN FEST

Participants from WPC choirs will participate in the 2nd Annual Foothills Presbytery Hymnfest: "God's Faithfulness" on Saturday, August 22 at 4p at John Knox Presbyterian in Greenville. Last year's Hymnfest featured a mass choir of 200 singers participating from the choirs of ten churches within our Presbytery. At this year's Hymnfest, a newly commissioned choral work, *I Believe in God the Father* by John Moody will be premiered. The service is free and open to the public. An offering will be collected benefiting the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a luncheon group for couples and singles, will meet at Bonefish Grill (Woodruff 1515) on Sunday, August 16, at 11:30a. RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, August 14. Newcomers are always welcome!

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.



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 is back and continues throughout the month of August. 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. For additional information, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

MOURNING PAGES

Henry Nouwen wrote, "Writing is a process in which we discover what lives in us." Join with others in our community as we use writing as a tool to process the losses of our lives. Over the course of four consecutive weeks, we will use poetry, art, scripture, and other prompts to call forth thoughts and feelings. You do not have to be an accomplished writer to participate! Facilitated by Parish Associate Terri Price, the workshop will be a safe space for you to explore your experience of grief as you write and share. Bring your favorite pen and notebook or journal and join us each Thursday in September (Sept. 3-24) at 11:30 in Room 213. Class size is limited to 15 participants, so contact the church office at 864-232-2424 to reserve your spot.

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.

PLEASANT VALLEY AFTERSCHOOL TUTORS

Volunteer signups for Pleasant Valley Afterschool Tutors are open! Tutors are paired with students at Pleasant Valley Connection to help with homework and reading every week throughout the school year. If you are interested in becoming a tutor for the 2026-2027 school year sign up in the Harbinger Hub. Contact Nick Carson with any questions.

  [wpcgreenville](#) | [wpc-online.org](#) | 2310 Augusta St.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
August 9-16, 2026

Sunday, August 9
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Summer Choir Rehearsal
	Education Hour with Dr. Pierce
9:30	Blessing of the Backpacks
9:40	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Donut Reception
	Sixth Grade Day
	Witness & Service Committee Meeting
4:00p	WPCYG Advisor Training

Monday, August 10

10:00a	Weekly Staff Meeting
4:30p	Game Group
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 11

12:00p	Al-Anon
	Administrative Committee Meeting
6:00	Men of Westminster Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 13

10:00a	Thursday Bible Study
12:00p	Finance Committee Meeting
4:30	Worship Committee Meeting
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, August 16
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Summer Choir Rehearsal
9:40	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Donut Reception
11:15	Stated Session Meeting
11:30	Connections Group
5:00p	WPCYG Parent Meeting

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

the **HARBINGER**
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIX | August 9, 2026 | No. 19

From the Pews, Amanda Warren

With the exception of a brief hiatus due to mom and soccer coaching duties, I have been a member of Westminster's Sanctuary Choir since 2004. Being able to sing with such an amazing group of church musicians in such a fantastic sanctuary truly is a treat for me year after year. I love tackling new anthems, as well as revisiting some of my favorite pieces we have sung previously.

Even those of you who are not musically inclined have probably realized that the topic of the anthem each week usually reflects the message of the scripture lesson and the sermon. Marlon does a fantastic job of selecting pieces that complement the theme of the day and that vary week-to-week in their style. Perhaps an anthem with a beautiful flowing melody one week is followed by an upbeat spiritual or gospel arrangement the following week and then a more structured piece by Mozart the third week.

Some scripture clearly leans towards one style or sound. For example, I doubt a competent composer would pair text from the crucifixion with an upbeat, happy tune. However, I have always been fascinated by how many different ways composers can interpret and set other words from scripture.

Today's sermon focuses on Psalm 27. A quick Google search informed me that there is "no exact count of how many musical settings, hymns, and choral anthems have been written about Psalm 27." The text has inspired centuries of sacred music, and the exact number of musical pieces written about this psalm is "uncountable." A quick check with Marlon informed me that Westminster's music library contains four different choral anthems about this particular psalm.

Psalm 27 was written by King David. At its core, this prayer teaches a lesson of overcoming fear with faith. It begins with a statement of bold trust and confidence in God and a description of the Lord as light, safety, and protection. However, in the second half of the psalm, David shifts to an expression of distress and cries for mercy. He pleas for courage and for God to hear him in hard times. He then concludes with triumph and encouragement to be patient and wait for the Lord.

That is quite a range of emotions to move through in only 14 verses! No wonder there are so many different anthems that have been created about Psalm 27. A composer trying to capture the meaning, feeling, and intensity of David's words through notes, rhythms, and tempo could create many different options, and all would probably seem fairly fitting to a listener.

The good news is that God listens to our prayers regardless of whether we present them in a calm, peaceful manner or in a louder, rousing way. So, the next time you are alternating back and forth between praise and doubt, go to the Lord in prayer like David did. You can be a human version of a hymn, a chorale, a spiritual, or a contemporary anthem. Our Lord loves them all. And always remember to "be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"