



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

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 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us arr. Shackley

* Call to Worship Micah 6:6, 8

Leader: With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

People: God has told us what is good.

Leader: What does the Lord require of us?

People: To do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" DIADEMATA

* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, you have given us the gifts of faith,
fellowship, and freedom.

We confess that we have taken these gifts for granted,
using them for our own purposes instead of loving you.

We extend hospitality to friends,
but remain fearful about welcoming strangers.

We search for new ways to entertain ourselves,
but ignore the cost of discipleship.

We live distracted and disoriented lives.

Forgive us, Holy One.

Remind us anew that we are citizens of your kingdom,
where healing is found in service,
joy is found through sacrifice,
and hope is seen in Christ’s cross.

We ask it in Jesus’ 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

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

First Scripture Lesson, Micah 4:1-5 p. 755

Second Scripture Lesson, Matthew 22:34-40 p. 804

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "What Does Christian Patriotism Look Like?"

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 With a Voice of Singing Shaw

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDRETH

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 339 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" LIFT EVERY VOICE

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 748 "Go with Us, Lord" TALLIS CANON
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

* Postlude Processional in D Johnson

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching

Mary Kathleen Duncan, liturgist

Thom Wood, scripture reader

Summer Choir

Pam Evans, head usher

Kathryn Freedman, Mary Gentry, Jennifer McDavid,

Will Edwards, Blake Hoffman, greeters

David Heegard, 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.

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.

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, August 8, 2026, Madison Dumpert and Trey Palmer were united in marriage in Townville, SC.

FALL SERMON SERIES

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS WITH
MORE THAN ONE ANSWER

In our Presbyterian Book of Order, one of the historical theological tenets that grounds us is the concept of “Mutual Forbearance,” which means “there are truths and forms with respect to which [people] of good characters and principles may differ.” (Book of Order, F-3.0105) Our fall sermon series will explore questions with more than one faithful answer, questions you may have asked yourself from time to time, such as “How Much Should We Agree on in Church?”, “Can War and Christian Faith be Reconciled?”, or “What Is the Relationship Between Science, Miracles, and Faith?”. In light of the celebration of our country’s 250th birthday this year, our question this Sunday is “What Does Christian Patriotism Look Like?”

“STATE OF THE CHURCH”
AN UPDATE FROM BEN ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23:

On Sunday, August 23, immediately following worship, Ben will provide an update on all things Westminster. Topics will include where we stand financially, what’s happening with our capital campaign, and what our goals and plans look like for the coming year. We will gather in room 209 at 11:15a. All are invited!

LUNCHEON GROUP

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

DAY OF SERVICE

Mark your 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.

DAY OF SERVICE FOOD DRIVE

As part of our annual Westminster Day of Service on August 29, we are hosting a food drive to support United Ministries Food Pantry. The canned food will be sorted, dated, and crated by our own WPC volunteers. See a list of the most needed items in the Harbinger Hub, and drop off at the United Ministries Donations Cabinet in the Friendship Court, anytime before August 29. Or, bring them to the Day of Service on August 29! Contact Nick Carson with any questions.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 is now open. 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!

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.

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.



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.

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.

PROJECT HOST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WPC volunteers every other Tuesday at Project Host to provide a meal, feed our neighbors, and address food insecurity. There are plenty of volunteer slots available throughout the fall. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up in the Harbinger Hub or reach out to Nick Carson with any questions!

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
August 16-23, 2026

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

Monday, August 17

10:00a	Weekly Staff Meeting
4:00p	Weekday School Committee Meeting
4:30	Game Group
6:00	Capital Campaign Committee Meeting
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 18

12:00p	AI-Anon
5:00	Health & Safety Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 19

12:30p	Luncheon Group Meeting
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Thursday, August 20
Men of Westminster to Drive ballgame

10:00a	Thursday Bible Study
10:30	Hiking Group Planning Meeting
12:00p	Endowment Committee Meeting
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, August 22
WPCYG Back to School Retreat at Look-Up Lodge

Sunday, August 23
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
WPCYG Back to School Retreat at Look-Up Lodge

9:00a	Summer Choir Rehearsal
	Creation Stewardship Meeting
9:40	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Donut Reception
11:15	An Update From Ben - "State of the Church"

the HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIX | August 16, 2026 | No. 20

From the Pews, Hunter Smith

As a new school year begins, classrooms everywhere are filling with lists of expectations: be kind, listen well, keep your hands to yourself, tell the truth, work hard, and help one another. Teachers know that these rules are not meant to make life more difficult. Rather, they create an environment where everyone can learn, grow, and feel safe. While a long list of expectations can sometimes seem overwhelming, each one serves the greater purpose of building a caring and respectful community.

When Jesus is asked to name the greatest commandment, he doesn't respond with an even longer list of rules. Instead, he cuts through the complexity and points to the heart of God's law: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then he adds a second commandment that is inseparable from the first: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments, Jesus tells us, "hang all the law and the prophets."

What a remarkable answer. Jesus reminds us that our faith is not rooted in simply checking boxes or following regulations for their own sake. Every commandment, every teaching, and every act of discipleship finds its purpose in love. When we truly love God, our hearts are shaped by God's grace. When we truly love our neighbors, our words become kinder, our actions more compassionate, and our communities more welcoming. Love becomes the lens through which every decision is made.

As summer gives way to fall and familiar routines return, many of us are entering a season of new beginnings. Students will meet new teachers, families will settle into new schedules, and our church will resume many of its regular ministries. This is an opportunity not only to remember our responsibilities but also to remember what lies beneath them. Like the classroom rules that help children flourish, Jesus' commandments are not burdens to bear but invitations to live in a way that reflects God's love to the world.

May we begin this season with hearts devoted to loving God wholeheartedly and neighbors generously. If we learn that lesson well, we will discover that every other lesson of faith grows naturally from it.

CAFÉ JUSTO COFFEE SALES

Over the next month, Café Justo coffee will be available for purchase in the Atrium (August 16 & 23). Coffee purchases support the ministry of Frontera de Cristo, a non-profit organization on the US/Mexico border working to support migrants and address the root causes of mass migration.

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.

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

The Creation Stewardship Group will meet on Sunday, August 23, at 9a in Room 211. Please join us to work to respond faithfully to God's call to care for Creation (Genesis 2:15) and to serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40). Questions? Contact Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).

SECOND ANNUAL
FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY HYMNFEST

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.

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.

FREE! WPC LIBRARY WITHDRAWN
BOOKS TO GIVE AWAY

On Sunday, August 16, these free books will be in the Sanctuary Atrium before and after worship. This cart will be located near the Sanctuary Atrium entrance at the rear of the sanctuary. WITHDRAWN labels are wrapped around the spine of all books formerly part of the library’s collection. A few unmarked books received as gifts are also on the cart. Part of maintaining a useful and attractive library collection is selectively removing unused, out-of-date, and damaged materials, as well as extra copies of titles which were once in higher demand. These books fall into one of those categories. Help yourself to any item of interest. Take one—or take more!

PLEASE NOTE: The cart with a selection of books for LOAN from the library will be in its usual location on the other side of the Sanctuary Atrium.

ALL CHURCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for our All Church Pancake Breakfast, provided by the Men of Westminster. Join us for a morning of delicious pancakes and fellowship on September 13 at 10a, as we kick off our fall worship schedule! Worship at 9a and 11:15a with pancakes in between. Sign up on the Harbinger Hub.

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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