



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship

“The serious Christian, set down for the first time in a Christian community, is likely to bring...a very definite idea of what Christian life together should be and to try to realize it. But God’s grace speedily shatters such dreams.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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 *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* arr. Lachenauer

* Call to Worship Psalm 133

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

People: It is like the precious oil on the head.

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**People: For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 321 "The Church's One Foundation" AURELIA

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we know that we have fallen short,
failing to be the people you call us to be.**

We like to live in echo chambers.

We place our own desires ahead of our neighbor’s needs.

**We turn our backs on difficult relationships,
prioritizing our pride**

instead of being generous with your grace.

Forgive us, Lord, and heal what is broken within our souls.

**Remind us anew that your Holy Spirit is at work in the world,
giving us courage for our fears, hope for our journeys,
mercy for our mistakes,**

and defeating despair with new life in Christ. 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, 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 p. 926

Second Scripture Lesson, Philippians 2:1-11 p. 954

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "How Much Should We Agree on in Church?"

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 *I Believe in God the Father* arr. Moody

* 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 322 "We Are One in Christ Jesus" SOMOS UNO
1st time, Summer Choir; 2nd & 3rd times, All

* 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 *They'll Know We Are Christians* arr. Hayes

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Carroll Farmer, *scripture reader*

Summer Choir

Nick Carson, *guitar*

Rosemary Hughes, *piano*

Hunter Smith, *flute*

Brad Hawkins, *head usher*

Claire Gilliland, Jennifer McDavid, Whit Walker,

Jennifer Shurley, Nancy Johnson, *greeters*

Manning Dailey, Shirley Bea Pitman, *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

This morning's offertory, *I Believe in God the Father*, was commissioned for and premiered at the 2nd annual Foothills Presbytery HymnFest at John Knox Presbyterian Church on August 22. The piece is a new arrangement of hymn 481, a metric setting of The Apostles' Creed.

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.

“STATE OF THE CHURCH”

AN UPDATE FROM BEN ON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23:

This 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! Childcare is available.

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 “Does God Side with the Poor?”, “Can War and Christian Faith be Reconciled?”, or “What Is the Relationship Between Science, Miracles, and Faith?”. Our question this Sunday is “How Much Should We Agree on in Church?”

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. If you need to hire a childcare provider in order to participate in the Day of Service, you can request reimbursement in the Harbinger Hub.

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

CAFÉ JUSTO COFFEE SALES

Café Justo coffee will be available for purchase in the Atrium on August 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 this 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).

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, September 13 at 12:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

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

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

wpccgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 23-30, 2026

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"

Monday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

12:00p	AI-Anon
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Wednesday, August 26

9:30a	Weekday Chapel
11:30	It's Elementary Luncheon
7:00p	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 27

10:00a	Thursday Bible Study
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, August 29

8:30a	Day of Service
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Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Summer Choir Rehearsal
	Education Committee Meeting
9:40	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Donut Reception
	Sunday School Teacher Training
11:15	Hospitality & Congregational Care Committee
5:00p	Welcome back to Youth Choir
6:00	WPCYG Class Dinners

the HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Skip Gordon

Paul admonishes the church at Corinth to stop arguing, stay united in their thoughts and focus only on Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, this admonition was destroyed many times over the next 2,000 years. The Catholic church split into Western and Eastern churches in the early 11th century. There were two popes (in Rome and Avignon) in the late 13th century. Then there was the Protestant Reformation started in the early 16th century. This split from the Western Catholic church was messy and resulted in many different Christian ideas represented by more than just a few church organizations.

Parallel societal changes in the past 20 years in the US have caused most mainline Protestant churches to splinter over the Biblical interpretations of these changes. Carrie and I moved to Westminster in response to one of these splinters. Different Christian ideas are represented in our political world today. Politics and social media strongly highlight these ideas and their differences. Many years ago, these differences existed but somehow, we managed to live with each other.

Now, it seems that if someone has differing ideas, they are the “enemy” and they are stupid. Can we ever get back to Paul’s admonishments? Probably not. But can we reverse the most recent trends and accept that people have differing ideas and values that should be respected? Can we then find common ground to work on problems that our society faces today?

Yes, I think that there is hope. I play golf with a senior group with over 100 members. We gather after golf for a beer and social time. Ten years ago, politics and religion almost never were part of our conversation. Then things changed, probably because of how social media changed our entire lives. A handful of golfers were very outspoken about political and Christian values. So much so that many people, including myself, would avoid socializing with them. Then, the group decided to emphasize that we should avoid polarizing conversations. This worked. We are all friends again and conversations have flowed naturally.

We may not be able to live exactly as Paul admonished. However, by focusing on Jesus Christ and his admonition to “love thy neighbor as thy self,” we may be able to overcome some of our differences and work to improve our and other’s lives.

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.

CHORISTER CHOIR REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for children in grades 1-5 for our weekly Chorister Choir. Rehearsals commence on Wednesday, September 2, from 4:30-5:15p. Lynne Robinson will lead the Juniors (grades 1-2), and Hunter Smith will again conduct the Seniors (grades 3-5). Visit the Harbinger Hub to enroll your child!

YOUTH CHOIR REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for youth choir participants in grades 6-12. There will be a “Welcome (Back) to Youth Choir” event on Sunday, August 30, from 5-5:45p in the Choir Room. Weekly rehearsals will be held from 5:15-6p in the Choir Room, commencing on Sunday, September 13. Enroll by visiting the Harbinger Hub.

SING WITH THE SANCTUARY CHOIR!

Weekly Sanctuary Choir rehearsals commence this Wednesday, August 26, from 7-8:30p. The choir assists in worship leadership each week at the 11:15a service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION

Please register any 6th-12th grade youth who would like to be involved in WPCYG this year through the Harbinger Hub. This provides us with all the information we need to communicate with families, ensure safety, and prepare for your youth on Sunday nights! Registration is open to members and friends of WPC.

Our Vision:

Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

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STORIES AND STORYTELLERS

It's ELEMENTARY

"Let me tell you a story"...these words can grab our interest and pull us close to listen. Do you remember your favorite story? Or the funniest story you ever heard? What about the most powerful story of a moment in your life?

Stories are the foundation of our faith. The Bible is a collection of the incredible stories of God's loving initiative to God's people. Jesus taught in stories and used images that were in the everyday lives of the people. Jesus knew the power of stories! He knew that people hold on to stories and carry them in their hearts. When we share with one another about what God is up to in our lives, we call it our faith story. People create meaning through stories, we learn from stories. And the storytellers who weave them are just as important and powerful!

This year in It's Elementary we'll explore the stories and storytellers of the Bible and our lives. We'll tell stories and create stories of meaning and memory in our fellowship together. We'll learn about the books of the Bible, how the Bible came to be, and some of treasured stories in it. Children will build their faith through games, stories, crafts, time with friends, and meaningful relationships with God and one another.

Registration is open now for everyone on the Harbinger Hub.

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