



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation of Worship

God, give me the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which can be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr

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 Toccata and Fugue Anonymous

* Call to Worship 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new.

People: All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Leader: In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self,
not counting their trespasses against them.

People: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation,
and entrusted the message of reconciliation to us.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 33 Psalm 150: "Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show" LLANFAIR

* Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
in your gracious presence we confess our sin
and the sin of this world.

Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves.

We harbor fears and jealousies
that make us prone to violence.

We pursue pleasures and profits
that leave others vulnerable and insecure.

We use our intellect and imagination for selfish purposes,
forgetting the selfless way in which Jesus lived his life.

Forgive us, Holy Lord, and let your Spirit shape our hearts anew.
Through acts of courage, compassion, service, and sacrifice,
let us be agents of your reconciling love in Jesus 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.

11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 p. 537

Second Scripture Lesson, Matthew 5:43-48 p. 787

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Can War and Christian Faith be Reconciled?"

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 9a Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace) arr. Myers

Offertory 11:15a We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom arr. Burkhardt

* 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 756 "O God of Every Nation" LLANGLOFAN

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response (11:15a), Hymn 545 "Bless the Lord" Taizé

* Postlude The Trophy Couperin

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching

Leigh Stuckey, liturgist

Betsy Raines (9a), Janell Pitman (11:15a), scripture readers

Marlon Hurst, Tim Judd, Todd Monsell (9a), trio

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Aaron Cizon (9a), Ben Edwards (11:15a), head ushers

Ragan Kirven, Trey DuBose, Mandy Pruitt, Tim Reed, Whit Walker (9a), greeters

Josh Riley, Brooke Culclasure, Christopher Carsten,

Denise Broderick, Ben Dillard (11:15a), greeters

Emory Mowlajko, Shirley Bea Pitman (11:15a), acolytes

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.

FALL WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL:

This Sunday, September 13, we will move to two worship services at 9a & 11:15a, with the Men of Westminster Pancake Breakfast at 10a in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School for all ages will resume on Sunday, September 20, at 10a.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTHS

The births of twin daughters, Parker Jane and Sloane Emma, to Jack & Kate Parillo, on June 16, 2026.

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. Our question this Sunday is “Can War and Christian Faith be Reconciled?”

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a on Sunday, September 27. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

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.

WestConnect Groups

WestConnect groups are starting up again this fall. Groups will be studying *The Heart of the Psalms: God's Word to the World* by James C. Howell. WestConnect groups meet for six weeks at a time in the Fall and Spring, and use videos and discussion guides that correspond with each season's book. If you are interested in facilitating a WestConnect group, contact Nick Carson.

Luncheon Group

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, September 16, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

Cherub Choir

Cherub Choir, for children PreK 4- and 5-year-olds, is a joyful place where young children can explore music through singing, movement, rhythm activities, and creative play. Along the way, they will learn simple music skills, build friendships, and discover how music can be a way to praise and worship God. Led by Lynne Robinson (lynne@wpcgreenville.org), Cherub Choir meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons, beginning September 30, from 3:30-4p. Visit the Harbinger Hub to register!

First Steps

First Steps offers an opportunity for 2-and 3-year-old children to sing, move, listen to, and explore music. This class allows a parent or grandparent the experience of participating 1:1 with their child each week. First Steps meets on Sunday afternoons beginning on October 4 and is directed by Diana Dailey (diana@wpcgreenville.org). Visit the Harbinger Hub to register!

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.



Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir will sing in the 9a service on Sunday, September 27. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays, September 15 and 22 from 7-7:45p in the Choir Room. The Chancel Choir leads in worship 3-4 times per semester, providing an opportunity for those who would like a more relaxed choir experience without the commitment of weekly rehearsals and is open to all who are interested. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

Women of Westminster

Please join the Women of Westminster for our annual fall kick-off at the home of Anna Hanor (4 Parkins Lake Rd) on Thursday, September 17, at 6p. Make plans to join us for an evening of fellowship and fun.

Sing with the Sanctuary Choir!

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays from 7-8:30p and assists in worship leadership each week at the 11:15a service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

Basketball Registration

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 11. Registration may be accessed through the Harbinger Hub. WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

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.

Guatemala

Witness and Service Trip

In October 2027, we will partner with Porch de Solomon, a Guatemalan mission organization that hosts construction and medical mission trips in the basin region of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. We will be hosting both a construction and medical mission team. An interest meeting to learn more about the trip will be held in the Charter Room on November 22 at 12:15p following worship. Reach out to Nick Carson with any questions!



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

The Harbinger

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Calendar of Events
September 13-20, 2026

Sunday, September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Mtg.
10:00 Pancake Breakfast
10:55 Weekly Session Mtg.
11:15 Worship Service
K5 Bibles presented
12:30p Baptism Class
1:30 Capital Campaign Committee Mtg.
5:15 Youth Choir Rehearsals
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middler Youth Group
Senior High Youth Group

Monday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 15

12:00p Al-Anon
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 16

9:30a Weekday Chapel
12:00p Volunteer Training
12:30 Luncheon Group Meeting
2:30 It's Elementary
4:30 Jr & Sr Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 17

10:00a Thursday Bible Study
11:30 Grief Writing Workshop
6:00p Women of Westminster Fall Kick-Off Event
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
Third Grade Bible Workshop
10:55 Weekly Session Mtg.
11:15 Worship Service
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
2:00 Middler to SCCT
5:15 Youth Choir Rehearsals
6:30 Senior Highs to Concert

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, Liz Howell

Have you ever looked back on a season of your life and wondered why things happened the way they did? Maybe you have experienced a time of great joy, followed by a season of sadness, or a time when everything seemed to fall into place, and another when nothing seemed to go according to plan.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 reminds us that “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Scripture goes on to describe the many different seasons of life—a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Some seasons are easy to understand and embrace. Others are difficult, and we may find ourselves asking God, “Why am I going through this?” But this passage reminds us that every season has a purpose. God is present not only in the joyful moments, but also in the difficult ones.

We often want to rush through the hard seasons or hold on tightly to the good ones. But God sees the whole picture when we can only see the moment we are in. What feels like a season of waiting may be preparing us for something ahead. What feels like an ending may be making room for a new beginning.

Whatever season you find yourself in today, remember that God is with you in it. You do not have to understand every change, answer every question, or know what comes next. Trust that God is working even when you cannot see it.

Join us for a new term of Adult Education!

The Revelation Revisited
September 20 - October 4
Room 209 and Streaming
Facilitated by Ron Shive, *retired Presbyterian minister*

Perhaps you have been frightened at one point in your life by someone’s bizarre interpretation of The Revelation of John. Maybe you have found yourself worried that the rapture was going to occur and you would be left behind. It is time to revisit this most often avoided book of the New Testament and realize that John was not trying to frighten us, but rather challenge us to live courageous, faithful, and hopeful lives. This class will be taught by Ron Shive, retired Presbyterian minister.

Discussion Class:
September 20 - December 13
Room 212

Join us each week for a discussion-based Sunday School class to dive into a weekly topic and scripture passage. All are welcome to join us on a journey of faith and fellowship - come every week or come when you can. Topics change every week, and the class is facilitated by rotating members.

Children on Sunday Mornings

Nursery is available for infant through 4K on the Mezzanine level.
During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

Starting September 20:
Children Sunday School Class Locations

Shine Curriculum – *5K/1st (Room 109)*
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)
4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth on Sunday Mornings

Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to meet in the Youth Suite for Sunday School from 10-11a. Facilitated by Claire & Mac Gilliland, this class will study the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. When numbers dictate, this class will split into separate Middler and Senior High Discussion Groups. We hope you'll join us this year!

SAME WPC.
NEW WEB ADDRESS.

Please update your bookmarks and contact lists! WPC has updated our online domain to **wpcgreenville.org**. Our email addresses have changed, too. In addition to using the new **@wpcgreenville.org** domain, many staff email addresses have been simplified to use first names only. The back of the Harbinger now reflects all updated contact information. Our former website automatically redirects to the new domain, and emails sent to old staff addresses will continue to forward to the correct inboxes, creating a smooth transition. Because new email addresses can sometimes look suspicious, we especially want you to know that emails from **@wpcgreenville.org** are from Westminster. We’re excited for this update and for a web and email presence that more consistently reflects WPC across our communication channels.

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