Sunday, October 18, 2026 |On Demand on YouTube|9a & 11:15a

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be at peace. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the lonely find friends, the fearful find courage, and the guilty know your grace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. 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.

Minute for Stewardship — Jamie Womack

Prelude — *Prelude on Genevan 42* — Hovland

* Call to Worship — Psalm 90

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
People: Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
Leader: So teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.
People: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 481 — "I Believe in God the Father" — Genevan 42

Stanza 1, ***Soloist*** *9a/****Choir*** *11:15a; Stanzas 2-3,* ***All***

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty and everlasting God,
forgive us for our lukewarm faith.
We proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
but we also like to hedge our bets.
We choose convenience over compassion,
erring on the side of comfort
instead of carrying our neighbor's cross.
We wallow in our insecurity,
pursuing idle pleasures and endlessly entertaining ourselves.
Have mercy on us, Lord.
Move us into new paths of love,
so that our courage would be contagious,
our generosity would be extravagant,
our hospitality would be healing,
and our faith would grow each day,
for it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

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

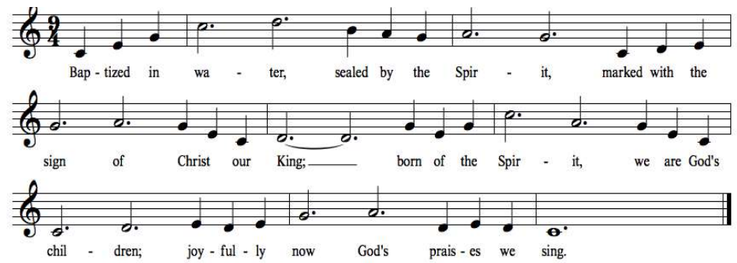
* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 — Gloria Patri

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sacrament of Baptism *11:15a* — *Hampton Hilliard Carraway*

Congregational Response — *Baptized in Water* — Bunessan



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, *James 2:14-17* — p. 981
Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 15:21-28* — p. 797
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *"What's the Most Important Part of Faith?"*

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* — "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" from *Messiah* — Handel
Offertory *11:15a* — *Speak, Lord* — Trenney

* 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 687 — "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" — St. Anne

Stanzas 1-2, ***All****; Stanza 3,* ***Low Voices****;*
Stanza 4, ***High Voices****; Stanzas 5-6,* ***All***

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 702 — Bunessan

"Christ Be Beside Me"

Please join in singing:

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me;
Christ be above me, never to part.

* Postlude — *Toccata Eroica* — Broughton

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, ***preaching***
Nick Carson, ***liturgist***
Judy O'Neal, ***sponsor***
Dorothy Dowe (9a & 11:15a), ***scripture reader***
Katie Knauer (9a), ***soloist***
Hunter Smith (11:15a), ***soloist***
Rosemary Hughes (9a & 11:15a), ***flute***
Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)
George Howell (9a), Rance Bryan (11:15a), ***head ushers***
Jason Farmer, Whit Walker, Stephen Ridgeway,
Ingrid Erwin, Josie Williams (9a), ***greeters***
Bill Ballinger, Clay Smoak, Ragan Kirven,
Chris Carsten, Brooke Culclasure (11:15a), ***greeters***
Grace Huerta, 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.

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 Harbinger Hub QR code.

Join Us in Welcoming

Baptism

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Hampton Hilliard Carraway,* son of Adam & Neely Carraway.

In Memoriam

Ron Schlacht
(10/31/1934 – 10/4/2026)

"I am the resurrection and the life."
- John 11:25

We Remember in Prayer

LaDonna Meindl on the death of her mother, Clara Metcalf, on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

John Orren on the death of his mother, Renee Orren, on Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

Patricia Gettys on the death of her father, Dick DeLoach, on Friday, October 9, 2026.

Mark Pruitt on the death of his mother, Joyce Pruitt, on Saturday, October 10, 2026.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

Births

The birth of a daughter, *Christine Chandler Nexsen,* to Julian & Chandler Nexsen, on October 12, 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 "What's the Most Important Part of Faith?"

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.

Men of Westminster Social

On Thursday, October 22, the Men of Westminster will gather at Fireforge Brewery at 6p for our Fall Social. Join us for an evening of fellowship and camaraderie!

Sanctuary Choir

The Westminster Sanctuary Choir with soloists Katie Knauer, Rosemary Hughes, Jackson Collins and Wyatt Pittman, will be joined by the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra to present *Missa brevis in d-minor*, KV65 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in a service of worship on Sunday, November 8 at 4p in the Sanctuary. This powerful and expressive early masterpiece showcases the remarkable gift of Mozart, only 12 years old when he composed this work, for blending drama, beauty, and devotion.

Young Adults

WPC Young Adults is sponsoring a play date on Friday, October 16, at 4p at Brooks Playground. Come gather with other WPC families and enjoy fellowship together! Contact Molly Rubin (mollyjrubin19@gmail.com) with any questions!

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, November 1 – All Saints' Day. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays, October 20 and 27 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.

Luncheon Group

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, October 21, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (1maryanncox@gmail.com).

Lightly Seasoned

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. We will next meet on Friday, October 23, at 7p at the home of Joel & Gaye Sprague. The address is available through MyWPC or by contacting the church office. Watch your email for more information or check the church's website ("Connect", "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

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!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
October 18-25, 2026

Sunday, October 18
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Weekly Session Mtg.
11:15	Worship Service
12:30p	Stated Session Meeting
4:00	First Steps in Music
4:30	First Steps in Music
	WPCYG Parent Panel
5:15	Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Dinner
6:30	WPCYG Family Night

Monday, October 19

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

Tuesday, October 20

12:00p	Al-Anon
5:00	Health & Safety Committee Meeting
7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 21

12:30p	Luncheon Group Meeting
2:30	It's Elementary
3:30	Cherub Choir
4:30	Jr & Sr Choristers
7:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 22

10:00a	Thursday Bible Study
6:00p	Men of Westminster Social at Fireforge Brewery
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, October 23

7:00p	Lightly Seasoned

Sunday, October 25
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Weekly Session Mtg.
11:15	Worship Service
12:30p	Capital Campaign Committee Meeting
4:00	First Steps in Music
4:30	First Steps in Music
5:15	Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Dinner
6:30	Middlers Youth Group
	Senior High Youth Group

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 | October 18, 2026 | No. 28

From the Pews, Jeff Reynolds

My "love language" - the way that I show other people love - is through acts of service. I'm not the best at giving words of affirmation, or coming up with gifts to show someone I'm thinking about them, or even carving quality time out of life's hectic schedule. (I do like to give hugs to people who want them, though, so "physical touch" is undoubtably in second place.)

"Acts of service" has taken different shapes throughout my life. I remember when I was kindergarten age, helping my friend finish eating his green beans so that he could have dessert (had to be in the clean plate club!) only for me to then be too full for ice cream myself. To borrow from Joe Diffie, my first car was a pickup truck, and if you drive a pickup truck, you end up helping everyone move, at least up until my friends and I were all old enough to be able to afford to pay someone else to do it. And as someone with a degree in an engineering discipline, I often field calls from friends with a less technical skillset having issues at their house or with their car.

I don't want to minimize any of those things, because I hope they meant something to the person that got dessert, or that wouldn't have been able to figure out how to cantilever and pulley a sofa up onto their third floor balcony when they moved into an apartment with too-tight of a stairwell, or that needed that hug. It just wasn't until getting involved with mission work through WPC that I truly understood how those "little acts of service" share God's love and grace with our neighbors and throughout God's world.

Due to a last minute cancelation of other plans, I unexpectedly found myself with a free weekend, when the wife and kids already had other plans. That weekend also happened to coincide with one of the first men's mission trips up to Camp Thornwell, so I loaded up some tools and a sleeping bag and went up the mountain. Working along side those men that weekend on the beginning of a big project to reclaim that camp back from nature (Thornwell had to pause support for several years following one of the financial crises) gave me a sense of fulfillment and purpose that I had only experienced on a smaller, very personal scale to that point. I wasn't just helping out a friend, I was doing something to support kids that had been dealt a tough hand, giving them an opportunity to have a mountain camp experience that otherwise they would likely never have.

That weekend was a trickle of a creek that became a stream of an annual trip, which quickly became a twice a year river, which became the flow of living waters across three construction mission trips to the Dominican Republic where we built a community center in one of the poorest bateys in the DR. Now I am excited to attend the November info session for a new construction/medical combo opportunity in Guatemala to see how those living waters can support a new community.

As I look back, maybe the timing of those canceled plans being the same weekend as that first men's trip weren't a "coincidence" after all. God was working through WPC to put me where I needed to be, when I needed to be there, to help transform those simple "acts of service" into something bigger. WPC has helped me to find those living waters, and my family will be increasing our pledge this year in hopes that others find them, too.

Join us for a new term of Adult Education!

For Such a Time as What? Exploring Esther
October 11 - November 15
Room 209 and Streaming
Facilitated by Leigh Stuckey

Esther is a strange book. God is never named in it, yet it has been read for centuries as a story of deliverance: an orphaned Jewish girl becomes queen of Persia, a royal decree threatens her people with destruction, and everything turns on whether she will speak. Over six Sundays, we will read Esther chapter by chapter, setting its palace intrigue against the world of the Persian Empire that produced it and listening for the questions it still asks of us. What does faithfulness look like when God seems silent? What does courage cost when power is unpredictable? And when Mordecai tells Esther she may have come to her position "for just such a time as this," what time does he mean — and what time might we be living in? Each week will include a lecture and time for questions. All are welcome, whether you know the story well or are opening it for the first time.

Discussion Class
September 20 - December 13
Room 212
[October 18 facilitated by Matt Rubin]

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.

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!

Trick or Treat at Terra Bella

Our annual Witness & Service trick-or-treat event at Terra Bella will be Wednesday, October 28. Our children will bring joy to residents at Terra Bella Retirement Home as they go trick-or-treating in their Halloween costumes. Arrive at the church at 5:30p to walk over together to trick-or-treat with residents. We'll return to the Fellowship Hall for dinner afterwards. There is no cost, but we ask that you sign up so we will know how much food to prepare.

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