

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 29, 2018

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In this place where Your Name, O God, is above every name, where Your truth is sought and Your faith cherished, grant Your blessing upon all who worship You in sincerity and truth. Here may the weary find rest; the lonely, friendship; the saddened, comfort; the fearful, courage; the discouraged, hope; the weak, strength; the strong, discipline; and all of us the reassurance of Your forgiving and empowering mercy, and the desire and opportunity to invest our lives for the good of all people and the glory of God.

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

** CHORAL INTROIT "Pilgrim's Hymn" Paulus

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: If God does not build the house, in vain the masons toil;

People: If God does not guard the city, in vain the sentries watch.

Leader: But you, O God, in Christ establish the Church and in his name we gather.

People: And by your Spirit you watch over your people, giving us cause to rejoice.

Leader: Let us worship God.

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 1 NICAEA

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. So often what we preach is not what we practice. We ourselves do not bear the burdens we impose on others. We expect commendation for our acts of benevolence; we like others to see us and how well we behave. Titles and honors are worn with pride, sometimes with envy, when others about us seem to be getting ahead. O God, forgive our craving to be exalted; help us to be humble in the knowledge that we live by grace alone.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

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.

** BAPTISM OF MARY LOUISE RICHARDSON

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

** CALL TO PRAYER "The Steadfast Love of the Lord" Psalm 105

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal page 35, Traditional

K5 and first grade children leave for Children's Church following the prayer.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SOLO (9:00 a.m.) "Here I Am, Lord" arr. Courtney

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON — Exodus 32:1-14 (Page 78) Ellis McLarty

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON — Matthew 20:1-16 (Page 21)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON Ludwig Weaver

"God Is Unfair!"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

* 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; 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.

** WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

SERVICE OF GIVING

Offertory (9:00 a.m.) Prelude and Fugue in d minor J.S. Bach

** Anthem "Jubilate Deo" Anglea

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 435 IN BABILONE

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

* BENEDICTION

** CHORAL RESPONSE "Glory Be to the Father" Stanford

* POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" Karg-Ellert

*All who are able may stand

** 11:15 a.m. service only

Table with 3 columns: Role, Time, Name. Includes HEAD USHERS (9:00 a.m. Brent Thomasson, 11:15 a.m. Bryant Puntch), SPONSORS (11:15 a.m. Ann Fuller, Philip Land), GREETERS (9:00 a.m. Coleman Kirven, Joanne Sweeny, Philip Land; 11:15 a.m. Howard Boyd, Gaye Sprague, Kristin Burrell), LITURGIST (Mary Kathleen Duncan), ACOLYTES (9:00 a.m. Katie Hoffman, Emily Jane Rayneri; 11:15 a.m. Madeline Barker, Sarah Sanders)

Following the service, visitors and members are invited to the Sanctuary Atrium following the worship service for a time of fellowship and to welcome our new members.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME

JENNIFER DILLARD

We welcome Jennifer Dillard as our interim volunteer coordinator. Having served as our interim youth director in 2016, we are pleased to have Jennifer return to us. In addition to her volunteer coordinator duties, she will also participate in "It's Elementary!" Jennifer is already on board. Her email address is jdillard@wpc-online.org. Jennifer and her husband, Kenneth, are members here at Westminster. And we are thrilled to have her back on staff.

MARRIAGE

On Friday, April 20, Allston Orders and Paul Shepherd were united in marriage at Westminster.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Mary Louise Richardson, daughter of Jay & Katy Richardson.

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster Presbyterian Church, membership here, and what it means to be Presbyterian are invited to attend our New Member Class from 8:45-10:30 a.m. this Sunday, April 29. Those who have been baptized and who wish to become members may do so this Sunday, April 29 during the 11:15 a.m. worship service or on a future new member Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424.

AUDIO TECH NEEDED

Each week we record our Sunday School classes so that those unable to attend can catch up on Christian Education throughout the week. We hope that you will consider being trained to assist the recording and editing of the audio for our classes. If you are willing (or curious!) please contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org).

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Charter Room on Monday, May 14. Amos Workman will lead the discussion of To End All Wars by Ernest Gordon. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are invited.

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist

9:00 a.m.

Jim Wilkins, tenor

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During the worship service, children in K5-1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in Room 206. The leaders for Children's Church this Sunday, April 29:

9:00 a.m. Bo & Mae Todd Mullins

11:15 a.m. Erik & Emily Busby

NURSERY

PARENT SCHEDULE

FOR APRIL 29

9:00 a.m.

Crib Grady & Kate Patterson

Toddler Zandr & Carly Tesolowski

K2 Will & Reid Murphy

K3 Jacob & Rita Barker

11:15 a.m.

Crawler Jackson & Cappy Riley

Toddler Wesley & Wendy Rentz

K2 Jay & Mollie Sprague

K3 Jonas & Katie Lichty

LET US PRAY FOR:

Theresa Sparks and family

The Family of Musette Williams

Ted Gentry and family

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES FOR APRIL 29
 5:15 p.m. Youth Meeting/Dinner
 6:00 p.m. Combined Youth Choir

ADULT GROUPS
 • **Hiking Group:** Will meet in the church parking lot on **Saturday, April 28, at 8:30 a.m.** for a hike at Camp Thornwell. **Hike Leader: Durden Collins** (durden.collins@gmail.com). On **May 2-3**, we will have an overnight trip/hike to Max Patch. With questions or to sign up for this hike, contact **Hike Leader, Terry Gentry** (tmgentry@charter.net).
 • **Movie Group:** Will meet in this **Sunday, April 29, in Room 209.** Contact **Susan Robbins** (jamrobbins@aol.com or 270-6747) for details.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB
 Westminster Book Club would love to have you join us at one of our future meetings, from **7:00-8:00 p.m.**, in the church **library**. On **May 1**, we will discuss ***In the Midst of Winter***, by Isabel Allende, a novel in which the lives of three very different people collide; from Brooklyn, to Guatemala, and Chile. Newcomers are always welcome.

CHURCH-WIDE DAY OF SERVICE: HANDS ON GREENVILLE
 All are invited to a clean up day at **Carolina High** (2725 Anderson Rd.), this year's WPC Hands on Greenville site, on **Saturday, May 5** from **8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Childcare will be provided at Westminster. Sign up online through the church website (www.wpc-online.org). Hands on Greenville is a community wide initiative sponsored by The United Way with support from WPC. This year we'll do some lawn care, spread mulch, and have a great morning. We hope that you will join us to serve alongside your family, friends, and thousands of other Greenvillagers. Following the morning of service, you are invited to **Fluor Field** (945 S. Main St.) for lunch, beverages, and a general celebration.

MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY
 The Men's Group will continue a new book study on **Monday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m.** in **Room 209-C.** We will study the book, ***Vanishing Grace***, by Philip Yancey. All WPC men are invited to participate. For more information, contact **Rick Carpenter** (608-1881).

HOME COMMUNION
 If you or a church member you know is unable to attend church and would like to celebrate communion, please call **Amos Workman** (423-0070) or call the church office.

GAIHN SIGN-UPS HELPING FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS

Quarterly, WPC hosts up to three families who are experiencing homelessness. Our next hosting week is **May 13-20.** Sign-up this Sunday in the Sanctuary Atrium or by visiting the website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration>. Questions? Contact **Julia Bellew** (juliabellew@gmail.com), **Beth Edwards** (bethholladay73@gmail.com), or **Holly Vanderwal** (hollyv04@hotmail.com). GAIHN is one of five programs under the umbrella organization of United Ministries which seeks to serve and empower those on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency. It is the only shelter that keeps families together, specifically for single mothers with sons age eleven or older. GAIHN is the only shelter for single fathers. GAIHN is a family friendly ministry open to members of all ages to participate.

VBS 2018 - REGISTER NOW! BABYLON: Daniel's Courage in Captivity

Visit the ancient market place, and find out how Daniel and his friends showed courage and faith as they lived in this foreign land, as we all take part in this summer's Vacation Bible School, **Monday, June 18–Thursday, June 21, from 9am-noon.** VBS this year is for all those who will be rising 5K–rising 6th grade. We will have a class for younger children of parents who are volunteer helpers. Adult and teen workers are needed. Contact associate pastor Barbara Stoop at bstoop@wpc-online.org, or 313-6956 if you can help. Mark your calendar and register your child anytime at <https://vbsspro.events/p/wpcvbs18>.

THE HARBINGER WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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CHURCH BARBECUE LUNCH on CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY, MAY 6

Join your Westminster friends and family for the annual barbecue lunch! Lunch will be served in the **Fellowship Hall** after the **10:00 a.m.** worship service. The barbecue will be catered by Charlie's. Our chef, Lisa, will be preparing sweet potato casserole, baked beans, chips and slaw. Nursery will be available for children under three. Sign up today by calling the church office at 232-2424 or by emailing michelle@wpc-online.org. Website sign-up is also available by visiting www.wpc-online.org. **Sign-ups end Monday, April 30.**

Name: _____
 Adults (\$7.00) _____ Children 3-11 (\$3.50) _____
 Ages of those needing childcare (Under age 3): _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 29 - May 5, 2018

SUNDAY

Men's Group Mission at Camp Thornwell
 8:30 a.m. New Member Class
 9:00 p.m. Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:15 a.m. Worship Service
 12:15 p.m. New Member Reception
 4:00 p.m. Movie Group
 5:15 p.m. Combined Youth Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner
 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

6:15 p.m. NAMI
 6:30 p.m. Men's Softball game
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting
 Al-Anon Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Westminster Book Club
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

Hiking Group trip to Max Patch
 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!" & Tweens
 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Choristers Rehearsal
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

Hiking Group trip to Max Patch
 10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study
 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

SATURDAY

Hands on Greenville Day



Our Old and New Testament readings for today deal with some of the major shortcomings of humankind – being impatient, forgetting God's blessings, seeking worldly pleasures, desiring the approval of others, avoiding what is right, claiming things are not fair when things do not go our way. This has been true from ancient time right up until the present day.

We see in Exodus that the Israelites grow impatient when Moses stays too long on the mountain, and they assume he has left them. They view Moses as the one who led them out of Egypt completely forgetting the miracles God performed on their behalf. The Israelites come to Aaron and ask him to build them a "new leader." Rather than reminding them of God's mercy and provision, he has them bring him all their gold jewelry. He melts and molds it into a golden calf as a god they can see.

In Matthew 20, we read the parable of the workers in the vineyard. The landowner goes to the marketplace in the early morning to hire workers. He offers them a coin to work for the day. At various times throughout the day, the landowner returns to the marketplace to hire more workers, each time offering the same pay. The last time he goes there is only an hour of work time left, but he still offers the same pay. The workers who were hired first complain to the landowner that it is unfair for the last ones hired to be paid the same as them. He reminds them that they agreed to the offer and nothing has changed.

The common thread in these passages is God's constant love and forgiveness when we fall short. The Israelites do not realize that God is angry enough to destroy all of them, but He listens to the pleadings of Moses and shows them mercy. According to the parable, no matter when a person is saved, we all receive the same promise of heaven.

When we ask God for help or healing and do not get immediate results, we grow impatient and complain much like the Israelites. We do not remember other answered prayers or consider that He knows what is best for us. Many times we look the other way when we see an injustice, because we do not want to take a stand or get involved. We also tend to believe we deserve more than others, since we think we work harder or do more.

How blessed we are that God does not give us what we deserve, and His love and mercy are equally available to us all.

Mickey Brown

Matthew 20:16: "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."